

GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

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Businesses Celebrate Landmark MI Supreme Court Victory on Line 5

Across the region members of the Great Lakes Business Network celebrated the 6-1 ruling from the Michigan Supreme Court remanding the decision from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) on the proposed Line 5 Oil Tunnel. The decision requires the agency to redo the permit and perform a thorough environmental review of the pipeline, assessing the risk of an oil spill and conducting a thorough analysis of the feasible and prudent alternatives. The ruling firmly cemented the MPSC's duty to apply and uphold the Michigan Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) and common law Public Trust Doctrine.

Appeals were brought by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, [Bay Mills Indian Community](#), Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, alongside environmental groups including the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Michigan Climate Action Network, and FLOW Water Advocates. Together, they argued that the MPSC's review under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) was too narrow and that the public trust doctrine was ignored, and a complete alternatives assessment was not conducted.

"The Michigan Supreme Court restored Great Lakes protections that the Public Service Commission had demolished when it issued the tunnel permit two years ago. The Court said the agency cannot ignore public trust, which protects the public's right to use and access the Great Lakes," said **Andy Buchsbaum, attorney representing the Great Lakes Business Network**. "The Court required the agency to consider the obvious: that the tunnel will lengthen the life of Line 5 and cause additional oil spills and greenhouse gas emissions. The Court has forced the MPSC to go back and follow the law - and when it does, the agency will have no choice but to deny the permit for this dangerous project."

Business leaders uplifted the vital importance of the landmark ruling for our regional economy:

"The Great Lakes are the life blood of our region, sustaining more than 1.5 million jobs and over \$60 billion in annual wages," noted **Pete Laing co-owner of MAWBY Sparkling Wines**. "Enbridge's dual pipelines and half-baked tunnel plans threaten all of that. No tunnel exists anywhere in the world at these extreme pressures, depths, and with this poor quality of substrate – the Great Lakes should not be an experimental proving ground.."

"This is a victory for the businesses and people who rely on the Great Lakes for clean water, economic growth and our way of life." said **Kate Jakubas, Founder of Meliora Cleaning**

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Products. “The proposed tunnel would have been a disaster for the Great Lakes and our economy, and we applaud the Michigan Supreme Court for vacating the permit and making the Public Service Commission go back and do its job right this time.”

“Today is a historic day for the Great Lakes and all of the businesses around the region who depend on clean freshwater for our livelihoods,” said **Juliette McAvoy, VP of Sales & Marketing at King Orchards.** “Now it is up to all of us to ensure that our next state leaders uphold their public trust duty to protect the shared waters of the Great Lakes for all people, not private foreign interests.”