



MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
100th Legislature

April 22nd, 2020

Representative Yousef Rabhi, District 53
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Michigan Public Service Commission
Re: Case U-20763

Dear Commissioners:

I appreciate your thorough examination of Enbridge Energy's proposal to build a new tunnel enclosing a new segment of Line 5. On behalf of my constituents, I urge you to conduct a full review of this new construction and to delay any final orders until the public and community organizations are able to participate safely in the proceedings.

Despite the Commission's admirable efforts to facilitate remote participation for members of the public, many stakeholders face barriers during this emergency, barriers which do not equally limit Enbridge Energy. The geographic areas most impacted by the proposed construction have relatively low coverage of broadband internet, and many tribal and community organizations are unable to access files or coordinate responses due to emergency limits on travel and office operations. Because of the potential for environmental and economic disaster if a large leak occurs in the Straits, the public has a strong interest in vetting the proposal. I hope that the Commission will recognize the need to proceed in a manner and at a pace that will allow full and legitimate public input.

I encourage the Commission to continue fulfilling its charge to protect the public interest by fully reviewing this new construction. The proposed construction of a new, single pipeline in a new location under the Straits, enclosed in a newly constructed tunnel requires thorough assessment to ensure the public interest is protected. It is clearly not routine maintenance of the existing line, and such a tunnel was in no way contemplated in the original approval of the line in 1953.

The people of Michigan receive very little benefit from the operation of Line 5 because 95% of the products it transports go from Canada back to Canada. Yet our state bears the risk of devastating environmental damage if a substantial leak occurs under the Straits. The hazards of continued operation of Line 5 during tunnel construction and any risks associated with the new tunnel are both relevant to the question of whether this proposal serves the public interest. The Commission should also take into account Enbridge Energy's extremely poor record of public transparency with regard to Line 5 and the fact that Enbridge lines have repeatedly leaked, including a spill of over one million gallons of diluted bitumen in the Kalamazoo River.

Please continue to act zealously in the interests of the people of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yousef Rabhi", written over a horizontal line.

Yousef Rabhi
Representative, 53rd District