



SIERRA CLUB

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

May 13, 2020

Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917
mpscedockets@michigan.gov

RE: MPSC Case No. U-20763

To the Michigan Public Service Commission:

On behalf of the Sierra Club, I want to thank the Michigan Public Service Commission for providing an easily accessible opportunity for members of the public to submit comments on the proposed Declaratory Ruling requested by Enbridge Energy Limited Partners (Enbridge) regarding replacing and relocating their Line 5 pipelines crossing the Straits of Mackinac.

Sierra Club opposes the requested Declaratory Ruling and urges the Commission to deny this request. Comments submitted on behalf of Michigan Environmental Council, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, National Wildlife Federation, the Bay Mills Indian Community, Environmental Law and Policy Center, and For Love of Water (FLOW) calling for this request to be denied provide an overwhelming case for denial of this request. We incorporate the comments of these organizations into our comments by reference.

In simplest terms, the Commission must deny Enbridge's request for a Declaratory Ruling because Enbridge fails in its contention that its proposed actions are authorized under the Commission's prior approval. Specifically, Enbridge asks the Commission to ignore that its proposal is in fact to replace the dual Line 5 pipelines by building a new single pipeline, of a different size, in a new location, through an as yet unauthorized tunnel that would need to be built to house it, while litigation is pending disputing the validity of the current easement for Line 5, and which easement does not pertain to the proposed new location of this pipeline.

Sierra Club has a particular interest in this issue with more than 23,000 members in Michigan, who live near the Great Lakes, recreate in the Straits of Mackinac and on state and federal public lands adjacent to and near the Straits, and are dependent on the Great Lakes for clean water and their livelihoods. For more than fifty years Sierra Club members in Michigan and throughout the country have worked to protect the Great Lakes, public lands and communities from pollution, impairment and destruction, including from potential oil spills as well as the devastating impacts of climate change caused by the fossil fuel combustion.

Sincerely,

/s/

Anne Woiwode, co-chair
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter