



Thomas M. Conway
International President

December 2, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: United Steelworkers opposes the decision to terminate the easement for the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline

Dear Governor Whitmer:

I write to you to express the United Steelworkers' (USW) deep concerns over your decision to terminate the easement for the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline. Our union is the largest industrial union in North America representing workers across the economy, including in refining. Steelworker members across Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin are directly impacted by your actions on this pipeline, and we urge you to reconsider your decision.

Our union has strongly supported the proposed Straits Line 5 Replacement Segment Project to replace the existing dual pipelines and alleviate the safety concerns about the pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac. However, your decision to prematurely shutdown Line 5 prior to the completion of the new tunnel risks lasting economic damage to the region and to Steelworker members.

Line 5 supplies crude oil to PBF Energy's Toledo Refinery, where the USW represents nearly 400 operation and maintenance employees, and the BP/Husky Toledo refinery, where USW represents nearly 300 workers. The light crude oil that Line 5 transports to PBF Toledo is primarily refined into jet fuel and makes up the bulk of jet fuel supply for the Detroit Metro Airport. In addition, Steelworker members rely on Line 5 in Michigan to provide propane in order to heat their homes.

There are currently no feasible and prudent alternatives of supply that would sustain the existing level of operation at the PBF Toledo refinery. The refinery's location does not have the infrastructure available to receive the needed supply by rail or truck. The refinery processes approximately 189,000 barrels per day or the equivalent of around 900-1000 tanker truck loads.

It has been widely documented that pipelines are the safest and most efficient means of transporting large quantities of energy products. A closure of Line 5, without

an operational replacement, will force more oil and gas products onto Michigan roads and railways, trading the risks associated with the pipeline for the risks of transporting these products through communities on trucks and trains.

Our union also represents approximately 150 workers who maintain Enbridge Line 3 in Wisconsin. In our experience, no company is perfect and the union is critically important for holding the company accountable. We urge your administration to continue to set a high bar and hold Enbridge accountable for safety in the design, construction, and operation of the replacement pipeline as well.

We are eager to work with you to ensure crude continues without interruption to USW-represented refineries in Ohio and that Michigan's fuel demands continue to be met. USW District 1 Director, Donnie Blatt, and USW District 2 Director, Michael Bolton, are in touch with your administration already regarding these issues. They lead our union in Ohio and Michigan/Wisconsin, respectively.

We urge you to reverse your decision to terminate the easement for Enbridge Line 5 and work quickly to review the proposed replacement pipeline to avert economic damage in the region. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,


Thomas Conway
International President