

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear President Biden:

We write to you today to share our deep concerns after reading recent news reports that your Administration is currently exploring the possibility of taking action to terminate the operation of Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline that links Superior, Wisconsin with Sarnia, Ontario.

According to a November 3, 2021 article entitled, "White House Weighs Effects of Shutting Michigan Oil Pipeline," sources indicate your Administration is "gathering data on whether shutting down the Line 5 oil pipeline in Michigan would lead to fuel price shocks in the region."¹ The article goes on to assert the Administration is seeking to appease environmental groups by putting together "a menu of options on whether to allow the pipeline to stay in operation or to break the treaty with Canada and shut it down."

Line 5 is essential to the lifeblood of the Midwest. Should this pipeline be shut down, tens of thousands of jobs would be lost across Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the region; billions of dollars in economic activity would be in jeopardy; and the environment would be at greater risk due to additional trucks operating on roadways and railroads carrying hazardous materials.

Furthermore, as we enter the winter months and temperatures drop across the Midwest, the termination of Line 5 will undoubtedly further exacerbate shortages and price increases in home heating fuels like natural gas and propane at a time when Americans are already facing rapidly rising energy prices, steep home heating costs, global supply shortages, and skyrocketing gas prices.

Last year, we sent a letter to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) asking them to confirm that Line 5 is structurally sound and does not manifest an unsafe condition or constitute an imminent hazard that would warrant its closure for safety reasons. PHMSA replied in January of this year confirming that "there are presently no integrity concerns" with the pipeline based on inspection data.

¹ Ben Lefebvre and Zi-Ann Lum, "White House Weighs Effects of Shutting Michigan Oil Pipeline." November 11, 2021. <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2021/11/white-house-weighs-effects-of-shutting-michigan-oil-pipeline-2094614?source=email>

Additionally, on March 10, 2021, we sent a letter to you describing our concerns regarding reports of pressure campaigns from pipeline opponents seeking to shut down petroleum and natural gas pipelines such as Line 5, and the devastating consequences such actions would have in our states. While we have yet to receive a response to our letter, we were told by Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm that the Department of Energy, and thus your Administration, “does not have a direct role regarding the project.”²

Along with the lack of safety concerns, any efforts to terminate the pipeline would trigger an international standoff with our closest ally and economic partner, Canada. The 1977 Transit Pipelines Treaty between the United States and Canada has ensured the uninterrupted transportation of energy products across the border for decades. Given the strained relations between our two countries brought on by the termination of the Keystone XL pipeline and the prolonged shutdown of cross-border travel due to COVID-19, now is not the time to worsen this critical diplomatic partnership.

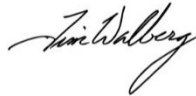
We believe, absent any credible data showing that there is a real safety hazard to continuing Line 5 operations, the intrastate, interstate, and international commerce implications of a possible shutdown should be overwhelming evidence that this path should not be followed.

We thus ask you to clarify your Administration’s stance on Line 5 and would welcome the opportunity to brief you on the overwhelming benefits of maintaining its operation.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



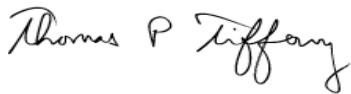
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

² <https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/the-fiscal-year-2022-doe-budget/>



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress



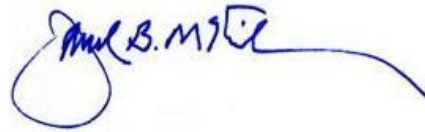
Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress