

Line 5 Talking Points

30 second elevator pitch

- Enbridge Line 5 poses a huge threat to our Great Lakes and Michigan's economy.
- Line 5's life expectancy was 40-50 years, but it is currently 64 years old. It's not a question of *if* the pipeline will fail, but *when*.
- The Sierra Club calls for the state to immediately begin the process of decommissioning Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac.
- Please support Rep. Yousef Rabhi's resolution calling on Governor Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to shut down Line 5

Background:

- Line 5 is a pair of 64-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge that carry light crude oil and natural gas under the Straits of Mackinac.
- An enormous amount of water flows through the Straits of Mackinac. At their peak volume, the Straits can move more than 10 times as much water as flows over the Niagara Falls. The currents in the Straits switch direction from east to west every few days.
- According to a 2014 study by the University of Michigan, the Straits are the "worst possible place" for an oil spill in the Great Lakes because its shifting currents would move the oil back and forth between Lakes Michigan and Huron, spreading it far and wide.
- The Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world's fresh, available surface water, and with this incredible resource comes a tremendous amount of responsibility to protect it. Oil pipelines do not belong in the Great Lakes.
- Independent experts estimate that only 3-5% of Line 5 oil stays in Michigan. The rest is transported through the St. Clair River to a refinery in Sarnia, Ontario.
- Michigan is one of the few places in the country where liquefied natural gas is transported through an oil pipeline. Northern Michigan's propane needs can be addressed by other transportation options, including truck and/or rail.
- In September 2015 Governor Snyder set up the Michigan Pipeline Advisory Board and the state plans to release studies of alternatives to Line 5 in June.
- Sierra Club is working with over 250 supporting organizations, community groups, businesses, and tribal governments from around the state to shut down Line 5 and stop the flow of oil under the Great Lakes.
- More than 60 municipal, township and county governments have passed resolutions calling on Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to take action to decommission Line 5.

What's at Risk:

- The Great Lakes are a drinking water source for over 35 million people.
- One in every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes.
- Tourism is one of Michigan's largest revenue sources and brings in billions of travelers' dollars each year. Our agriculture, fisheries, shipping and industry depend on a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Many species of plants and animals, several of which are threatened or endangered, make the Great Lakes their home.
- Oil flowing under the Great Lakes poses an imminent risk to our drinking water, our communities, our economy, and our environment.

Enbridge Track Record:

- Enbridge has a shaky track record that includes 1,174 reportable spills, leaks and releases of liquid hydrocarbon products like crude oil and natural gas liquids since 1999.
- Since 1999, Enbridge spills and other failures have released 181,311 barrels or 7,615,062 gallons of liquid hydrocarbons into the environment.
- The number of spills per year from Enbridge pipelines has increased steadily from an average of 50 spills per year from 1999 to 2004 to an average of over 90 spills per year from 2010 to 2014.

- In 2014, Enbridge was found to be in violation of its 1953 easement for Line 5, which requires bracing every 75 feet along Line 5. Several braces along Line 5 were missing along the lake bottom and the pipeline was unsupported in the water.
- It was recently revealed that the protective anti-corrosive coating on Line 5 in the Straits is missing in up to 19 places.
- In December 2014, Enbridge was responsible for a pinhole leak in Line 5 in a section north of the Straits of Mackinac.
- Enbridge's negligence caused in the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history when Line 6b ruptured near Kalamazoo in 2010. Almost one million gallons of tar sands oil leaked for 17 hours before Enbridge shut down the line. Thirty-eight miles of river were contaminated. Clean-up costs for the spill were roughly \$1 billion. The river is still not completely recovered to this day, 7 years later.
- When Line 6b ruptured near Kalamazoo it was due to a defect that Enbridge was aware of, but did nothing about.
- Dr. Earl Weener of the National Transportation Safety Board identified the following as causes of the catastrophic Line 6b spill: pervasive organizational failures at Enbridge, inadequate integrity management oversight, and inadequate emergency response resources and procedures.
- Based on Enbridge's track record, we cannot trust this corporation to operate a pipeline safely in the Straits of Mackinac.

Problems:

- Corrosion is the number one reason that pipelines fail. It's not a question of *if* the pipeline will fail, but *when*.
- The currents in the Straits are extremely forceful and unpredictable. If there were a spill from Line 5, oil would be churned up so much that it would be nearly impossible to clean up; oil would spread throughout Lakes Michigan and Huron for up to 700 miles, according to a University of Michigan study.
- Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was adopted so Enbridge didn't have to obtain a permit and ensure that the pipeline wouldn't pose a threat to the waters of the state or the public's use of those waters.
- When it was built, Line 5's life expectancy was 40-50 years, but it is currently 64 years old.
- The U.S. Coast Guard Commandant testified before Congress in 2015 that the Coast Guard would be unable to respond effectively to an open water oil spill in the Great Lakes.
- According to Steven Keck of the U.S. Coast Guard, if waves in the Straits are higher than three feet or if it is night/dark, the Coast Guard would not put people on the water to recover oil.
- According to state officials, if a spill occurred in the Straits there would be no visible cleanup activity in the first hours or perhaps even the first days after the oil spilled, as response crews and equipment arrive from other regions of the country.
- Local emergency response teams would be the first to respond and the first put in harm's way.
- In September 2015 Enbridge conducted a spill response drill in the Straits and preliminary reports show that only 30 percent of the oil would be able to be recovered.
- If a spill were to occur in the Lakes, Mackinac Island and St. Ignace would likely lose access to drinking water immediately, and ferry service to and from Mackinac Island would be stopped leaving islanders and tourists without drinking water or a way to get off the Island.

Solutions:

- It's time to put the Great Lakes, our *Pure Michigan* lifestyle, our communities, our economy and our environment ahead of corporate greed.
- The state needs to immediately begin the process of decommissioning Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac. Attorney General Bill Schuette and Governor Rick Snyder have the authority to do this.

Ask:

- Will you support Rep. Rabhi's resolution calling on Governor Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to shut down Line 5?