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## DAVE PRESTIN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 8, 2024

Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
United States Department of the Army  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

We trust this correspondence finds you well. We are writing to bring to your attention to the pressing matter of the Enbridge Line 5 Great Lakes Tunnel Project (GLTP) and the need for its expeditious completion. We respectfully request your assistance in accelerating the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) process to facilitate the commencement of construction. A tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac is the optimal solution to safeguard the Great Lakes while ensuring vital energy products are continuously provided to residents in Upper and Lower Michigan, as well as communities nationwide.

The recently released 2023-24 Winter Energy Appraisal from the Michigan Public Service Commission revealed that approximately 800,000 Michigan residents rely on propane for heating<sup>1</sup>. Propane plays an indispensable role in sustaining rural communities within the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan, which often lack the energy and sewer infrastructure present in more urbanized areas. For instance, in Delta County, the largest county in the 108th district, residents contend with freezing temperatures for half of the year. Given that Line 5 serves over half of Michigan's propane customers, its role is pivotal in ensuring propane affordability.

In the memorandum issued by the Army Corps of Engineers outlining the scope of the EIS, it was expressly stated that the study would be confined to the construction of the 4-mile tunnel and related construction and maintenance activities. Notably, several other concerns pertaining to the Line 5 Pipeline were deemed outside the purview of the EIS, such as the impact of Line 5 products on climate change and the broader pipeline infrastructure outside of the proposed tunnel project. We commend the Army Corps of Engineers for maintaining this focused scope, a decision that we find to be eminently reasonable. Additionally, the Corps noted that it "does not have authority over the operation of Line 5, and continued operation of Line 5 is beyond the scope of this analysis."<sup>2</sup> Given this information, it seems that approval of the project is inevitable.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/-/media/Project/Websites/mpsc/regulatory/reports/energy-appraisal/2023-2024\\_Winter\\_Energy\\_Appraisal.pdf?rev=df87fd85eb464cc2bec9c035e3681cb6&hash=4AAD02CFA1D9E2196A40039FE9FAAFBE](https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/-/media/Project/Websites/mpsc/regulatory/reports/energy-appraisal/2023-2024_Winter_Energy_Appraisal.pdf?rev=df87fd85eb464cc2bec9c035e3681cb6&hash=4AAD02CFA1D9E2196A40039FE9FAAFBE) and <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/michigan-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.line5tunneleis.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20230628\\_MFR\\_Scope\\_of\\_analysis-signed.pdf](https://www.line5tunneleis.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20230628_MFR_Scope_of_analysis-signed.pdf)

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) granted approval for this project over two years ago. Furthermore, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) sanctioned Enbridge's rerouting of the pipeline late last year. These approvals underscore the necessity of the pipeline to provide fuel to the region, ensuring compliance with Michigan's laws and environmental regulations while leveraging the best available technology to guarantee the safe and reliable transportation of fuels across the Great Lakes region. In an interview discussing the approval, MPSC Chairman Dan Scripps corroborated what proponents of the tunnel project have asserted for some time: the tunnel represents an effective means of safeguarding our lakes while delivering essential energy, with its alternatives posing a considerably greater threat to the environment<sup>3</sup>.

Approval by the Army Corps of Engineers is the final hurdle impeding the much-needed infrastructure update that is the GLTP. Throughout its development, the GLTP has withstood rigorous scrutiny at every stage, substantiating its necessity, environmental soundness, and its standing as the optimal solution for preserving our Great Lakes and delivering essential energy resources. In light of the protracted delays encountered thus far, we urge you to consider expediting the project through the EIS process to reverse the delays the project has experienced thus far.

Originally slated for completion this year, the project has continually faced regulatory delays, potentially pushing construction to 2026. These delays have persisted for several years now, and we implore the Army Corps of Engineers to contribute to the well-being of our communities by expediting the EIS process for the projects inevitable approval to facilitate the earliest possible commencement of construction. Your prompt attention to this matter is highly appreciated, and we trust that you will consider the urgency of the situation.

Sincerely,

Dave Prestin  
State Representative  
108<sup>th</sup> District

Jaime Greene  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> District

Cam Cavitt  
State Representative  
106<sup>th</sup> District

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State Representative  
110<sup>th</sup> District

Matthew Bierlein  
State Representative  
97<sup>th</sup> District

Timmy Beson  
State Representative  
110<sup>th</sup> District

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<sup>3</sup> Listen [MIRS Monday, December 4, 2023 | MIRS Monday Podcast \(podbean.com\)](#) beginning 44:41

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102<sup>nd</sup> District

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Bradley Slagh  
State Representative  
85<sup>th</sup> District

Mike Harris  
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State Representative  
62<sup>nd</sup> District

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67<sup>th</sup> Districts

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90<sup>th</sup> District

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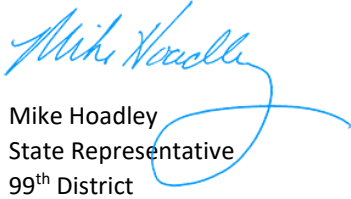
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State Representative  
100<sup>th</sup> District


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71<sup>st</sup> District

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State Representative  
64<sup>th</sup> District


Greg Alexander  
State Representative  
98<sup>th</sup> District



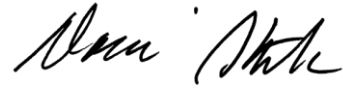
Mike Hoadley  
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37<sup>th</sup> District



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Dale Zorn  
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