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# Michiganders Celebrate Permitting Progress for Great Lakes Tunnel

*'Moving Line 5 into the Tunnel will Make a Safe Pipeline Safer'*

**Lansing, Mich** – Michigan workers, job creators, and industry leaders today celebrated the decision by state regulators to grant important permits needed for construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel. The permits approved by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) are an important step towards moving a safe Line 5 out of the water under the Straits of Mackinac, and burying it in a state-of-the-art tunnel deep below the lakebed.

State experts have concluded that the risk of a spill into the straits from the Tunnel is “virtually zero.”

*“Line 5 is safe, and moving it into the Great Lakes Tunnel will make it even safer,” said Mike Alaimo, Director of Environmental and Energy Affairs for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce: “The Michigan Chamber commends EGLE for carefully reviewing and approving the construction permits as provided under state law. At the same time, we urge the Governor and Attorney General to reconsider and withdraw their costly and counterproductive lawsuits attempting to stop Enbridge from protecting Michigan’s water resources by building the Great Lakes Tunnel. By working together, we can ensure our energy needs are met responsibly, and reliably.”*

**Said Geno Alessandrini, Business Manager for the Michigan Laborers District Council:** *“Today’s permits are a huge win for Michigan workers. The Great Lakes Tunnel project just makes sense. It’ll protect the Great Lakes, it’ll protect Michigan’s energy supply, and it’ll protect tens of thousands of jobs. We’re grateful for the thoughtful work done by EGLE, and for the investment being made by Enbridge in Michigan’s energy infrastructure.”*

**Said Mike Johnston, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Michigan Manufacturers Association:** *“More than 628,000 workers power Michigan’s manufacturing industry, and many of those jobs rely on Line 5. Building the Great Lakes Tunnel will protect those jobs. It’s a project that makes a safe pipeline safer, updates Michigan’s energy infrastructure, and supports competitive, high paying jobs that power the state’s economy. That’s why Michigan manufacturers back Line 5, it’s why we back the Tunnel, and why we’re so grateful today for EGLE’s careful review and permitting announcement.”*

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**Said Mark Griffin, President of the Michigan Petroleum Association and Michigan Association of Convenience Stores:** *“The Great Lakes Tunnel is the kind of big project Michigan needs. Here in Michigan, we take our jobs seriously, and we need to build important things. Today’s permitting decision by EGLE is great news for the state and for the future of our economy.”*

**Said Douglas Stockwell, Operating Engineers 324 Business Manager and General Vice-President:** *“The permits announced today will help us move forward and protect great Michigan jobs for years to come. Michigan workers and families back the Great Lakes Tunnel because they count on it for a paycheck, for heat, and because it’ll move fuel safely underground, not on our roads and trains. Those workers were proud to speak out in support of the Tunnel during EGLE’s public comment process for these permits, and they’re grateful the department listened and agreed.”*

**Said John Dulmes, Executive Director of the Michigan Chemistry Council:** *“Permits from EGLE are an important next step for an important Michigan infrastructure project. We commend the department for doing the right thing. Line 5 matters to Michigan, it matters to our state’s chemistry industry, and the tunnel project will help power our state’s future.”*

Leading Michigan voices from labor, business and industry have formed the Great Lakes Michigan Jobs coalition, and have filed individual public comments in support of the Tunnel project. They work together, encouraging state and federal agencies currently reviewing permit applications – and all Michiganders – to embrace the Tunnel project, and the lakes and jobs it protects.

Majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents support construction of the Tunnel, believe it’s the best solution for Line 5, and want the state to move forward immediately with permitting for the project, according to recent survey results.

To learn more about the coalition and the Great Lakes Tunnel project, visit [GreatLakesMichiganJobs.com](http://GreatLakesMichiganJobs.com).

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