



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Great Lakes Michigan Jobs Coalition Thanks Public Service Commission for Backing the Great Lakes Tunnel

*‘Moving a portion of Line 5 into the Tunnel will Make a Safe Pipeline Safer’*

**Lansing, Mich** – Michigan workers, job creators, and industry leaders today applauded the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for its decision to grant needed approvals in the Great Lakes Tunnel permitting process. Today, MPSC commissioners accepted the recommendations of their technical staff and granted a key approval. Today’s action is an important step towards moving an already safe portion of the Line 5 pipeline out of the water under the Straits of Mackinac, and burying it in a state-of-the-art tunnel deep below the lakebed.

The Great Lakes Tunnel energy infrastructure project was approved by the legislature and signed by the governor in 2018. Construction of the Tunnel is a matter of public law.

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

Line 5 delivers up to 23 million gallons per day of the fuel Michigan and surrounding states use to gas up their cars, power their equipment at work, and create jobs.

*“Union laborers are counting on the Great Lakes Tunnel,”* said **Geno Alessandrini, Sr., Business Manager for the Michigan Laborers District Council**. *“The Michigan Public Service Commission did the right thing granting approvals for the project. This is the kind of infrastructure project that makes our energy more reliable, keeps it affordable, and protects our environment. We hope every other permitting agency follows the MPSC’s lead and lets us break ground soon!”*

*“The MPSC’s ruling was an important step toward making a safe pipeline even safer,”* said **Jim Holcomb, President and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce**: *“The Great Lakes Tunnel project will protect tens of thousands of Michigan jobs. We look forward to construction of this state-of-the-art infrastructure project that will protect Michigan’s access to affordable energy and our Great Lakes for generations to come.”*

**Said Price Dobernick, President of the Michigan Pipe Trades**: *“Michigan labor depends on Line 5, and we’re excited to build the Great Lakes Tunnel. We’re grateful the MPSC took this important step, and look forward to getting to work.”*

(MORE)

Leading Michigan voices from labor, business and industry formed the Great Lakes Michigan Jobs coalition. 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.

**According to a study from the nonpartisan Consumer Energy Alliance, closing Line 5 would cost Michigan up to \$2 billion more per year on fuel, kill 6,600 jobs, cost Michigan labor \$464 million in income and drive out \$3 billion in economic activity in Michigan alone.**

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

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