



## **Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club**

P.O. Box 84

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### **The Pros and Cons of Line 5**

**May 8, 2020**

The Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club is the oldest environmental organization in Manistee County. It has dedicated itself to preserving the quality of our waters, forests, and our air for nearly a century. It is that vision that compels us to write this day. We feel that the possibility of an oil spill into any waters of Michigan is untenable. The possibility of a major leak into Lake Michigan is unthinkable.

The proposed Line 5 Tunnel that is promoted by the Enbridge Corporation is a risk our club cannot support. While we understand that this design is an improvement on the naked pipeline that exist now, it is still too large of a risk compared to the gains for the people of Michigan.

The pipeline does transmit petroleum products that are needed in today's markets. The maintenance of that line does provide a few jobs for a limited number of workers. The extraction of petroleum products used to heat homes in the Upper Peninsula is important for the sparse families who live north of the Straits. All of these are important aspects for this pipeline, but they come with considerable risk.

If this pipeline leaks product into our waters it will cause immense harm to one of the largest sources of fresh water on the planet. The cost to clean up such a disaster will pale the benefits of those few families that gain from the traversing of oil through our state. We live on Lake Michigan, which is our greatest economic asset in the county. If that is spoiled, we are soiled economically and morally. We in Manistee County gain no benefit from this pipeline. We gain no jobs. Our propane and fuel products may come from that very source, but it is far from the only source. There are numerous options for fuel supplies.

The question here is do the benefits of Line 5 outweigh the potential costs of petroleum spilling into our clean water resources? It is the strong opinion of our organization that it does not and we oppose the permitting and construction of such a pipeline for the benefit of a few.

Sincerely,

Gene Lagerquist, Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club President