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To: [LARA-MPSC-EDOCKETS](#)
Subject: CaseNo. U-20763
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To the Michigan Public Service Commission,

Regarding Case No. U-20763

Please consider these points in the reconsideration of the Enbridge tunnel project

Former Governor Snyder made some reckless decisions. In 2015 he created a public health crisis when his emergency manager rerouted Flint's water to a source that reacted with old pipes and leached lead into children's drinking water. That disaster has still not been resolved. The clean-up requires replacement of all the damaged pipes in the homes. This same governor disregarded the recommendation of his own commission to shut down line five pipeline. Then in haste, as a lame duck in 2018, he made the reckless decision to push through and sign legislation to approve the construction of the Enbridge tunnel. This is another mistake that was made without the necessary thorough investigation of risks. We now know that a number of serious legal treaty violations, conflicts of interest, and environmental risks exist. A full environmental impact review is critical.

We know now that Under the Straits is a river gorge with deep layers of unstable material that will make the tunnel boring an extremely problematic project. Now we know that the existing weakened pipe is at risk for damage and leakage during the new construction. And we know that line 5 crosses numerous waterways that feed the Straits where it can contaminate the water within minutes. So, even if the tunnel project did not damage the ecosystem during construction, the tunnel would NOT reduce the danger of oil spill to zero.

We now know that this all new construction on the proposed tunnel would dump 5 million gallons of waste water each day into the straits during construction. Bentonite from tunnel boring can decimate a fish population. Enbridge claims it will be removed in settlement ponds, but Enbridge was recently fined \$6.7 million for failing to remedy pipeline safety issues. How can we trust their process to protect a vital and fragile ecosystem?

We know now that Enbridge either failed to see or failed to report an ancient cultural site in the straits that will be destroyed if tunnel construction goes forward.

And after a study by the Attorney General's office, we know that neither the Enbridge parent company nor the subsidiary has the means to financially mitigate the harm they will do to the Straits ecosystem. They will not be accountable.

When public officials make reckless decisions that compromise public health, the responsibility falls on the public to broadcast the harm, and then the responsibility of safeguarding public health falls on other agencies like the Public Service Commission and the Army Corp of engineers. For seven years the public has demanded action to prevent an oil spill from the expired line 5 pipeline, and Governor Whitmer, along with the DNR director Eichinger, have responded by revoking the 1953 easement. Now the agencies that hold the power to deny permits actually do carry the burden of maintaining the environmental integrity in the straits of Mackinac and the public confidence in this kind of state process. The cumulative environmental impact must be considered. Hundreds of thousands of jobs depend on maintaining the clean water status in the Great Lakes. The state agencies must made decisions about water safety, health, and the economic future of Michigan with caution as the priority. That caution and the full Environmental Impact Review will lead to denial of these tunnel permits. But that is the task before us.

Please do not allow this to go forward and create another public health disaster.

Respectfully submitted,

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