

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members of the House Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Committee  
**From:** Dave Greco, Director, Regulatory and Environmental Affairs, Michigan Manufacturers Association  
**Subject:** Great Lakes Energy Tunnel Project (HR 282)  
**Date:** June 24, 2020

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### **MMA strongly supports the construction of the Great Lakes Energy Tunnel Project pipeline below the Straits of Mackinac.**

MMA has served manufacturers and related industries for nearly 120 years by working to protect and advance the interests of manufacturers in Michigan in order to preserve and grow this critical segment of our state's economy that benefits all Michigan citizens.

MMA's membership represents approximately 1,700 manufacturers located in every corner of the state. These members include small, medium, and large manufacturers, with 85 percent employing 100 or fewer employees.

Manufacturing represents Michigan's largest economic sector. It drives Michigan's economy and provides livelihoods for more than 635,000 Michigan citizens and their families. Manufacturing generates nearly 20 percent of state GDP.

These manufacturers and their tens of thousands of employees rely every day on the fuel safely delivered by Enbridge Energy's Line 5 pipelines. We are convinced that construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel, is a critical and necessary step towards securing manufacturers' fuel needs for years to come. As such, MMA has submitted formal comments in support of the pipeline to both U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the U.P. Energy Task Force.

Michigan citizens and the manufacturing community in both peninsulas are dependent upon a reliable and affordable supply of pipeline products. This is especially true in the Upper Peninsula where manufacturing is the fourth largest sector for employment and employs one-in-seven individuals living in the U.P. These manufacturing jobs also support the broader economy of the region by fueling tax revenue and other consumer spending and investment.

Roughly 47,000 Michigan jobs already rely on the fuel delivered by Line 5. The Great Lakes Tunnel would replace the portion of Line 5 that runs along the lakebed under the Straits of Mackinac, and place Line 5 in a state-of-the-art structure deep under the lakebed.

The tunnel project will require nearly 2 million hours of labor over the life of the project, and that work will be done primarily by Michigan labor to the benefit of Michigan manufacturers and the families who rely on their products and their jobs.

MMA was also encouraged that building the Tunnel will have no impact to ship traffic in the Straits and will enable the continued operation of the safe Line 5 pipelines until the project is completed. These steps are important to the continued successful operation of manufacturers across the state.

Line 5 is a critical part of Michigan's economy, providing the energy the state needs during unprecedented economic challenges. The Tunnel is a critical infrastructure project will help provide safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy for Michigan's citizens and businesses.

### **MMA supports passage of HR 282.**

Thank you for your consideration on this important legislation. Please feel free to call me at 517-487-8543 if you have any questions regarding our position.