

## COMMENT AGAINST HOUSE RESOLUTION 282,2020

RE: House Resolution 282 of 2020  
TO: House Committee on Natural Resources, Clerk Amy Rostkowycz  
FROM: Lisa Patrell  
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Washtenaw350 does not support the construction of a tunnel bisecting the Straits of Mackinac. Foremost is the lack of a third party geological study. The underlying formation is karst and the nature of karst is porous and prone to collapse when disturbed. A tunnel through karst does not make an pipeline more safe when it there is a risk of the earth around it collapsing. Moreover, since the subterranean area of the Straits has not been thoroughly mapped the risk of to the structural integrity of the Mackinac Bridge is unknown. Events such as inadvertent returns, in this case discharge and waste created by the tunnelling during construction, are unknown. Inadvertant returns are an uncontrolled event given naturally occurring fissures and such return can be sent a distance.

Washtenaw350 also objects to the false claims in this resolution.

- p1,5-6 Line 5 is not critical infrastructure to the State of Michigan. The Upper Peninsula Energy Task Force is confirming data that Line-5 provides less than 45% of the propane and moreover propane is used by limited number of households that can be provided propane by other means of transport.
- 12-13 Line-5 has not been approved for multi-use. Further electrical providers cite the dangers of housing electrical lines in a tunnel transporting oil and gas.
- p2,1 Line-5 as currently configured bisecting the State of Michigan is a shortcut between the oil fields in Alberta and the ports in Ontario. Enbridge is a Canadian corporation and can tunnel through its own country.
- 13-14 Line-5 has not been proven to be environmental safe. The minimal and insufficient sampling that has been done was not been delivered. Findings concerning the broken and abandoned drilling bit have not been delivered. Cause of changing lakebed that resulted 80 foot gap has not been explained nor whether the lakebed will continue to shift.  
  
Enbridge does not have a track record of being a trusted environmental steward nor transparent and cooperative entity with the State of Michigan. Recently, the damaged anchor support known to Enbridge on May 26 was not reported to our Governor until 3 weeks later. Further

Enbridge did not comply with releasing all related documentation and further claims not to have to consult the State of Michigan about the operation of Line-5.

Enbridge has not submitted a satisfactory design for the tunnel. For example, grouted casing should be used.

25-26

Proof of official support for Line-5 from County Commissioners is not as broad as claimed. Personal support of someone holding the position of commissioner is not the same as County support. cursory searches for in County Committee Minutes at the end of 2019 revealed only 1 County in support. A FOIA to another County that had tabled a resolution in support went unanswered.

Lastly, Washtenaw350 is troubled by the appeal for private funding. Our ongoing research into the financial health of Enbridge warns us that Enbridge does not have the funds to build a tunnel, which also means Enbridge does not have the funds to indemnify it. Given Michigan's lack of legislation to protect our State from an industry disaster, which has been estimated to exceed \$60B, our legislators should not be treating the Straits of Mackinac like the wild west, where a show of bravado is valued over the wise and considered interests of the whole of the State of Michigan.

The needs of Upper Peninsula residents for propane has been taken under consideration. Where is the consideration for our Lower Peninsula residents whose drinking water comes from the Great Lakes?