



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

October 4, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

by Karandjeff, President (517-484-5383)

The League of Women Voters Michigan remains opposed to the transport of oil on, in or under the Great Lakes. Governor Snyder's announcement today of plans to construct a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac for this purpose is no exception.

- A Canadian tunnel under the Straits is not permissible under Michigan's Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act (GLSLA), common law public trust doctrine, and would violate the 1836 Treaty with Michigan Tribes protecting the Straits fishing grounds. These protections safeguard the Great Lakes, state officials must enforce them, and Enbridge can't ignore them. One protection requires Enbridge to prove that there are no other alternatives to Line 5 or the Straits, when in fact other alternatives exist.
- Gov. Snyder's intends to use a law intended to operate the Mackinac Bridge to bypass public scrutiny and environmental reviews while providing a major financial benefit to a Canadian oil transport company that puts Michigan taxpayers at risk for footing the bill in the event of a tunnel collapse or if one day Enbridge decides to abandon Line 5.
- Gov. Snyder's proposal ignores safer, less costly alternatives that would address Michigan's energy needs and guarantee the Great Lakes would never be at risk from a Line 5 oil pipeline rupture.
- This proposed deal means putting Michigan's future in the hands of Enbridge, a corporation has made numerous false claims about the condition of Line 5
- And an overall track record in Michigan that includes \$177 million in civil penalties, \$1.3 billion in damages and more than 1.2 million gallons of spilled oil.
- A backroom deal with Enbridge means supporting the construction of a Mackinac Straits tunnel for a Canadian company to haul Canadian oil to southern Canada under the world's largest source of fresh surface water.
- A backroom deal with Enbridge could transform Line 5 into yet another dangerous Enbridge tar sands oil conduit, creating an invitation for Enbridge to green light its North American tar sands oil operations here in the Great Lakes.

XXXXXXX