



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

May 15, 2015

Attorney General Bill Schuette
525 West Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI 48909

Director Dan Wyant
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Michigan Pipeline Task Force study of Line 5 through the straights of Mackinac

Dear Attorney General Schuette and Director Wyant,

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports policies that address the potential of pollution, with an emphasis on prevention. We share the Task Force's concern about this aging pipeline after seeing the findings of a study conducted by the University of Michigan and National Wildlife Federation. We urge the State to take control of oversight through independent review, inspection and safety reports. The present system seems to be dependent on information made available to the state through the pipeline owner.

This pipeline poses great danger to the Great Lakes and vital water resources. Engineering practices in the 50's, do not meet today's safety standards. Environmental conditions have changed significantly with the introduction of invasive species that have the capacity to burden these pipes. All pipes leak as they age, and is this an acceptable risk to the Great Lakes? Is there a plan for this pipeline if it needs to be temporarily shut down for maintenance or abandoned? Can transport of this oil be rerouted away from the Great Lakes?

The League of Women Voters of Michigan believes that government depends upon the informed and active participation of citizens with open meetings and accessible information. We share your objectives to implement every possible safety precaution to protect the ecology and economy of the Great Lakes.

We hope you will consider our membership's thoughts going forward on this review, with independent information, open access, and a public process. Public oversight and transparency will protect citizens and our environment.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Smith, President
League of Woman Voters of Michigan