

**Written Submission for the Special Committee on the  
Economic Relationship between Canada and the United States**

**Respectfully Submitted By: Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership**

## List of Recommendations

1. We recommend that the Government of Canada raise the continuation of the Enbridge: Line 5 operations with the appropriate decision makers in the United States.
2. We recommend that the Government of Canada support Enbridge in U.S. Federal Court (Western District of Michigan), including by making supportive filings or an Amicus Brief laying out the negative impacts a Line 5 closure would have on Canada (Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and Saskatchewan, in particular) and raising the existence and application of the 1977 Transit Pipelines Treaty.
3. We recommend that the Government of Canada advance Enbridge's Great Lakes Tunnel Projects as the best solution to maintaining critical regional and North American energy systems, noting that while the Tunnel is being permitted and built, Line 5 must stay open

Dear MP Raj Saini, Committee Chair,

I am writing to request your assistance with a matter that is of critical importance to our local, provincial and national economy. As you are aware, the Governor of Michigan has announced her intent to revoke the Enbridge Line 5 easement and force the shutdown of this pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac. The result of this announcement could have far reaching consequences on both sides of the Canada-United States border.

The fact that your committee is sharing in this discussion shows our residents and all Canadians that this issue is of paramount importance to the Government of Canada. Line 5 is the primary mechanism for delivering Western Canadian oil to Ontario and Eastern Canada. A disruption in this supply would have serious negative impacts on all four gasoline refineries in Ontario, as well as numerous refineries in Quebec, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Shutting down Line 5 would also halt the supply of Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) essential to the production of propane that heats homes and is a critical fuel, especially for agriculture and rural families. Further, a disruption to Line 5 would cause significant job losses across many sectors with families unable to fuel their vehicles to get to work, and cause devastation to the manufacturing sector and other sectors that are critical to the economy of the bi-national Great Lakes region.

As the primary economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area in Ontario, the threatened shutdown of Line 5 is of grave concern to the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP), not just for the serious negative impact on our 125,000 local residents, but also on all 14 million residents in Ontario. Our mandate includes fostering economic stability, growth and diversification across the Sarnia-Lambton area, to enhance the quality of life and create a vibrant place to live and work. Our efforts benefit the entire region through cross-border trade and commerce. For years, Enbridge has been a vital partner in driving economic growth across the Great Lakes region. Its various investments, including Line 5, have provided significant benefits to communities on both sides of the border, not the least of which is a safe and reliable energy supply to fuel transportation, factories, homes, and lives.

The Sarnia-Lambton area's petrochemical manufacturing complex directly employs over 4,000 people with an additional 23,500 jobs (or approximately one-third of the area's employment) engaged in providing a host of services to the refining and chemical industries. These companies are responsible for billions of dollars per year of direct and indirect revenues to levels of government and they rely primarily on Enbridge's pipeline network for the raw feedstocks to produce the finished energy products our society depends on each day. We are closely monitoring this issue because of the grave impact any disruption to Line 5 would cause to our communities, families, and economy.

We hope that you share our recognition that Line 5 is of critical importance to all citizens in the Great Lakes region and that the Michigan Governor's intent to revoke the Line 5 easement does not serve the public interest on either side of the border. Line 5 is crucial to ensuring sufficient supplies of gasoline and diesel fuels for cars and trucks on both sides of the border and supplies 65 percent of the propane used for residential and industrial heating in rural areas of Ontario and Michigan. The feedstock carried on Line 5 is key to ensuring supplies of aviation fuel at Pearson International Airport, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, and other airports in the Great Lakes region.

We recommend the committee to raise this important energy security issue with appropriate decision makers and your colleagues in order to keep Line 5 operational. We would also urgently request that the Government of Canada coordinate with the U.S. Federal Government to engage with the Biden administration to ensure that the interests of Canadians are protected and that the 1977 Transit Pipelines Treaty (negotiated by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and President Jimmy Carter) is honoured. This Treaty ensures that the United States, including its individual states, cannot impede pipeline operations that Canada depends on for our energy security, and should provide the Government of Canada with a basis to prevent Michigan from terminating the Line 5 easement. Given the national importance of Line 5, it is critical that the Government of Canada engage actively with the Biden Administration, communicating firmly that Governor Whitmer's effort to terminate the Line 5 easement is not within her authority and in contravention of the 1977 Transit Pipelines Treaty.

The Line 5 crossing at the Straits of Mackinac has never experienced a leak since entering service nearly 70 years ago. Additionally, Enbridge has proactively proposed to spend more than \$500 million to modernize this infrastructure by constructing a tunnel through the bedrock deep below the Straits and relocating the Line 5 crossing to this tunnel. This investment will further protect against potential hazards as a result of marine vessels. In so doing, this project will address the concerns of environmental lobby groups, while maintaining the energy supply that they too use every day. Most permits for this project have already been granted, but progress could be jeopardized if the easement is revoked.

Line 5 is vital to keeping the economy of our bi-national region strong and ensuring the continued viability and competitiveness of four refineries in Ontario, two refineries in Quebec and five refineries in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Northern Ohio, together with crucial propane facilities in Ontario and Michigan. These facilities support thousands of workers with good jobs and high wages while their economic spin-off supports our interconnected and interdependent economy.

In summary, continued operation of Line 5 is critical to meeting energy demand and in sustaining the economic future of the entire bi-national Great Lakes region. SLEP and many other concerned business organizations across the region call on you to support the continued operation of Line 5.

We thank you for your commitment to reviewing the material received on this issue and for the importance the committee has placed on Line 5 for Canadians and Americans alike.

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership is the primary economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area in Ontario encompassing eleven municipalities. Our mandate includes fostering economic retention, expansion, and attraction across the Sarnia-Lambton area, to promote job growth, to foster vibrant communities and to support the Canadian economy. Our efforts benefit the entire region through cross-border trade and commerce.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Katherine Walker, Chair  
Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board of Directors