To: Army Corps of Engineers

From: Concerned Students and Citizens from Michigan State University

Date: September 26, 2022

Re: Public comments on Proposed Line 5 Tunnel on bottomlands of Straits of Mackinac

As individual students of Michigan State University interested in a more sustainable and healthier future, we are formally submitting our comments through this collective statement in regards to the continued operation of the Line 5 crude oil pipeline running through the Straits of Mackinac and the proposed construction of a tunnel to house the pipeline in the future.

We are opposed to both the continued operation of the current pipeline resting on the lakebed, and the proposed construction of any sort of tunnel network on or below the lakebed. Our position is founded on an ecological, economic, and social considerations basis.

The primary ecological concerns are for the immediate effects on Lakes Michigan and Huron, and their watersheds. A failure in the pipeline would have dire consequences for the entire ecosystem of the lakes. We also believe that a tunnel would likewise disrupt the geology and hinder the ecosystems on the lakebed.

The tunnel project poses multiple engineering obstacles and from our collective opinion represents an unsustainable endeavor.

In terms of the economic and societal impacts they are numerous. To name a few, there would likely be major negative impacts to tourism to multiple lakeside towns from Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island, Cheboygan, and St. Ignace.

Recreational, commercial and subsistence fishing would be severely degraded. In terms of major shipping, we present two major concerns: the current concern is the risk that a freighter may drop or drag an anchor across the existing pipe and cause a rupture, with likely damage done to the structure itself from ship anchors causing cracks or collapse.

Lastly, if a major spill were to occur, shipping will be significantly disrupted if not re-routed all together while cleanup efforts are ongoing.

Collectively, the impacts on Human life, natural resources and the economy would measure in the tens of millions of dollars if not more when considering all the industry, transportation, tourism, and personal property values included in the cost of the oil spill aside from the actual contamination itself.

Therefore, we believe that Line 5 as it currently operates should cease operations as soon as is practicable and that the pipeline be removed before any of the catastrophic impacts identified above occur.

Given this concern for the continued operation of the pipeline itself, we therefore believe that it is not practical nor sustainable to construct and maintain any tunnel infrastructure under the bottomlands of

the straits or any part of the Great Lakes

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