

December 4, 2025

US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District:

I am writing to inform you that **I do not support** pipeline-related construction on publicly and privately owned and protected lands in and adjacent to Mackinaw City, including those identified in HDD Sub-Alternative 1, South of the Straits of Mackinac, in the November 14 Environmental Impact Study (EIS) from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

My wife and I live on Lake Michigan on the Straits of Mackinac. We live within walking distance of the entire four mile by 80-foot stretch of land to be clear cut as proposed in Sub-Alternative 1. I have read the Line 5 Tunnel Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Horizontal Directional Drilling Installation Alternative Executive Summary November 2025 in its' entirety.

The following is a partial list of shortfalls in the analysis by the USACE in outlining the environmental impacts due to either HDD or full tunnel construction.

Page 7, **Aesthetics**, paragraph 2 states that "Tree clearing (approximately 31.9 acres) would result in long-term impacts due to the slow regeneration rate of trees." This is a huge understatement. **NO ONE ON THIS EARTH** will be alive to see the 80-foot by four-mile path of destruction regenerate into the mature woods that exist there today. This is where our entire community enjoys recreation including hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, and snowmobiling, to name a few.

This paragraph also states that the "degree of impact to the viewscape would depend on **individual location and perception**." (Page 7, Aesthetics, paragraph 2.) I submit to you that everyone who lives in and around the proposed corridor of clear cutting would perceive the clear-cut areas as a defacement of our beautiful forest for which northern Michigan is well known.

Page 7, **Groundwater**, paragraph 1 states that "detrimental impacts to groundwater quality due to a potential release of contaminants associated with onshore material storage"...."**would end following construction**. There is no guarantee that this is true. It is expected that thousands of truckloads of drilled material will be dumped each year on private property which is uphill from our artesian wells. The drilled waste material will contain bentonite mixed with petroleum products. There is a very real possibility that runoff could seep into our aquifer and contaminate our drinking water.

Page 9, **Terrestrial Habitat**, paragraph 2 states "**Impacts**"... on wildlife ..."**would end following completion of the respective construction phases**." How can the impacts end when the habitat is destroyed?

Page 10, **Protected Species**, paragraph 1 states there would be "long-term, detrimental impacts associated with the loss of suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat. The Applicant has committed to tree clearing outside the pup season (June/July). It's all well and good to limit removal of vegetation to times of year when the bats are raising pups but once they're evicted where do the bats go? What good does it do to honor pup season and then destroy their habitat? (As an aside, during the construction of the event center and parking areas in the Dark Sky Park there was widespread clearing of forested areas. Subsequently, the bald eagle population plummeted and has not recovered.)

Page 11, **Soil Resources**, paragraph 1 makes no mention of potential contamination of the aquifer that supplies fresh, potable water to our artesian wells. See above, **Groundwater**.

Pages 14 & 15, **Socioeconomics**. This section outlines various economic benefits that might or might not occur. My belief is that these are far outweighed by many of the abovementioned permanent risks.

In closing, we are opposed to any pipeline construction (HDD or ENBRIDGE LINE 5 TUNNEL PROJECT). The alternative to either of the above is for Enbridge, a Canadian company, to re-route the current flow of petroleum products through Canada to one of their existing Canadian pipelines to the East.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully,

Bob and Nancy Padilla
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