



March 15, 2021

The Honorable Brian Baldrige
Chair, House Transportation & Public Safety
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Baldrige:

We write in support of House Resolution 13 which would respectfully urge Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and her administration to continue working with Enbridge, owner of the Line 5 pipeline, to keep Line 5 safely operating through the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan. As Rep. Sheehy appropriately and accurately has identified, shutting down Line 5 impacts oil refinery jobs and fuel access to Ohio.

The Ohio Propane Gas Association (OPGA) respectfully submits that shutting down Line 5 would also impact propane supplies in Ohio.

Like everyone here in the Great Lakes region, the OPGA cherishes the natural resources that bless our state, especially our Great Lakes. The OPGA takes great pride in promoting an environmentally friendly fuel like propane. The OPGA also takes leaking pipes very seriously and believes all industries, including the propane industry, must maintain a safe infrastructure.

While propane is only a small piece of Line 5, the pipeline is essential infrastructure for the propane industry. Line 5 provides for the safe transport of natural gas liquids that are refined into propane in Michigan and Ontario, Canada. The Ohio propane industry travels to Michigan to bring much of that propane here to Ohio. Additionally, the refineries mentioned in Northwest Ohio also provide propane access to propane retailers here in Ohio.

Decommissioning Line 5 would send ripple effects throughout our entire region. Removing an energy source this size would require Michigan propane companies to find product in other states, such as Ohio. That would force propane companies here in Ohio to travel farther to meet their propane needs and so on. Shutting down Line 5 would tighten the propane supply for everyone, and would almost assuredly require emergency situations to allow Ohio propane truck drivers more time to transport Ohio into and throughout Ohio.

The OPGA takes great pride in being a clean, environmentally friendly fuel, and the OPGA supports policies that improve the reduction of greenhouse gases. Shutting down Line 5 would cause for more transport of propane via rail or trucks - far less environmentally friendly solutions - than a safe pipeline within a tunnel.

To be clear, the Ohio propane retailers will find propane, and they will continue to heat Ohio homes, businesses, and farms. Propane remains a safe, abundant, clean and affordable today because of Line 5.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request that language about propane be added to House Resolution 13 as the discussions taking place in Michigan to shutdown Line 5 will harm the Ohio propane industry and the Ohioans that rely on propane as a safe, reliable, clean and affordable home heating fuel. We appreciate the support you continue to show to Ohio's propane industry.

If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Chris Buschur
OPGA Government Affairs Chair

Alex Boehnke
OPGA Legislative Director

CC: Members of the House Transportation & Public Safety Committee