



**Before the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Proponent Testimony on House Resolution 13
March 16th, 2021**

Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, my name is Stephanie Kromer, and I am the Director of Energy and Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Resolution 13.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent nearly 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Enbridge's Line 5 is an oil pipeline that rests on the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac and carries roughly 540,000 barrels a day of light crude oil, light synthetic crude and natural gas liquids which are all used to refine propane. To ensure the environmental safety of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, a project was approved by former Michigan Governor, Rick Snyder, to allow Enbridge to create a tunnel to house the pipeline to prevent any environmental issues from occurring. After pushback from environmental groups, the newly elected Governor Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel, blocked the tunnel plans and sought to decommission Line 5 altogether.

Line 5 is critical not only to Michigan's economy, but to Ohio's economy as well. For decades, Line 5 has safely delivered products to refineries in northwest Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ontario.

Ohio businesses, employees and families depend on Line 5, and are counting on construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel to protect the Great Lakes and local economies all while keeping energy prices affordable for consumers. As we fight to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the thousands of jobs this project will create and support are more important than ever.

Shutting down Line 5 would not only be devastating to Ohio and Michigan's economy, but it would also negatively affect the economy from a regional perspective. The interconnectivity of the petroleum market means that small events can create regional price shocks, and larger events can quickly cascade into a national crisis requiring federal action and assistance. All refineries in the region would experience reduced crude oil supply and would not

be able to meet product demand, thus, resulting in high prices for consumers. If the pipeline is taken offline, refineries located in northwest Ohio could be forced to eliminate more than 1200 good-paying jobs.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and its members are committed to ensuring a clean and safe environment now and into the future. By encasing and reopening Line 5, Ohio and other regional jobs will be preserved, and the energy we all rely on can be transported in a safe and efficient manner.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce commends the sponsor and co-sponsors of HR 13 and urges its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today, and I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee.