

**Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation**

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To: Ohio House of Representatives – Transportation & Public Safety Committee  
From: Matthew A. Szollosi  
Date: 3.23.21  
  
Re: HR 13 – Enbridge Line 5

Chairman Baldrige / Vice-Chair McClain / Ranking Member Sheehy:

Please be advised that ACT Ohio is a 501(c)(5) organization created by the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council to encourage economic and industrial development opportunities, and to facilitate utilization of industry-best practices for Ohio's public and private construction. For the reasons that follow, I offer this written testimony in support of HR 13.

Our 137 local affiliates, along with our 14 regional councils represent approximately 95,000 skilled construction workers. When coupled with the members of Operating Engineers Local 18 and the Carpenters, the number swells to approximately 120,000 workers. At more than 80 state-of-the-art training facilities across the state, Building Trades apprentices are acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to produce high-quality craftsmanship in every area of the construction field.

Collectively, the Building Trades and our partner contractors invest over \$50 million per year in apprenticeship and safety training in Ohio. This unprecedented level of labor-management commitment ensures that the Building Trades can take on the most technical and sophisticated construction projects leading to thousands of good-paying jobs.

At facilities such as PBF Energy's Toledo Refining Plant and others, the Building Trades play a critical role in the capital improvements and maintenance of large-scale industrial operations. The State of Michigan's attempt to revoke the Enbridge Line 5 easement would likely result in the closure of Ohio refining plants leading to the loss of job opportunities for Ohio's Building Trades workforce.

Our organization has long held that environmental responsibility is of paramount importance. However, it is incumbent on our leaders to strike the correct balance between environmental standards and job creation. Simply put, the State of Michigan's action fails to achieve this balance and if upheld, would result in the loss of thousands of Building Trades jobs that pay good wages and offer family-sustaining benefits. Accordingly, we urge passage of HR 13.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Szollosi