



SENATOR KENNY YUKO
25th Senate District

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senator Kenny Yuko and Senator Theresa Gavarone
May 11, 2021
Senate Resolution 41 – Sponsor Testimony

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on behalf of Senate Resolution 41. Working alongside my colleague Senator Theresa Gavarone, Senate Resolution 41 was drafted to urge Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Director of Natural Resources Daniel Eichinger to keep the Enbridge Line 5 operating.

Line 5 is a major oil pipeline that carries petroleum from Western Canada to Eastern Canada via the Great Lakes States. Construction on the pipeline was completed in 1953. At that time, Michigan granted Enbridge an easement which allowed the construction, operation, and maintenance of Line 5 through the Straits of Mackinac.

On November 13, 2020, following a review of Enbridge's compliance with the easement, the State of Michigan ordered Line 5's closure within 180 days, citing persistent violations of the 1953 easement. The closure of this pipeline would have an adverse effect on Northwestern Ohio, which is why I am here today. Line 5 provides the crude oil that is refined at PBF Energy's Toledo Refining Company and the BP-Husky Toledo Refinery. Combined, these companies employ more than 1,000 hardworking people, in addition to the contractors who employ hundreds more workers. The closure of the Line 5 pipeline would effectively shutter these refineries and leave hundreds unemployed. These are good paying Ohio jobs that will disappear, when our economy can least afford it.

Now, we know that pipelines are not without inherent risk. Oil spills have the potential to devastate a region's economy, environmental health, and livelihood. In 2018, a tugboat anchor caused minor damage to the Line 5 pipeline in the Straights, and in 2020 it was found that a screw anchor support had shifted from its original position. These instances are cause for concern. However, former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder made an agreement with Enbridge to replace the current pipelines with pipe enclosed in a tunnel four hundred feet beneath the Straits. This pipeline project would create a much safer method for transporting crude oil. The proposed project to build a tunnel deep beneath the Straits and replacement line in the tunnel will protect both the environment and high-wage, family sustaining jobs. A premature shutdown of Line 5 would threaten the livelihoods of our workers and their families, as there are no feasible alternatives to supply the crude products needed for these refineries in Toledo.

Lake Erie supports multiple billion dollar industries, sustains tens of thousands of jobs, and provides drinking water for millions of Ohioans. The maritime economy of Lake Erie is responsible for more than \$2 billion of Ohio's GDP annually. Senator Gavarone and I are working together to provide stable funding for the H2Ohio program and protect our cherished lake. And while I believe Ohio should pursue a diverse energy portfolio that includes new, green, energy technology, we must also rely on what we have now. Keeping Enbridge Line 5 operational is a commonsense solution that provides the energy that we all rely on with no additional cost to taxpayers, and the added economic benefit of protecting good, family sustaining jobs for Ohio residents. Keeping the existing Line 5 operational during the tunnel construction project will secure hundreds of full-time jobs at the Toledo Refinery and thousands of secondary jobs in the surrounding communities to safeguard the 5 billion dollars of economic activity that the refineries provide.

The move to close Line 5 has been met with bipartisan opposition here in Ohio, including Governor Mike DeWine, Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, and Oregon Mayor Mike Seferian. Senator Gavarone and I represent bipartisan support for our workers in Toledo. It is my hope that a strong response from the Ohio Senate will help reverse Governor Whitmer's decision.

Thank you to Senator Gavarone, for your partnership on this issue. Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation. We would be glad to answer questions and provide any follow up information should any members require it. Thank you.