



**Before the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee
Proponent Testimony on Senate Resolution 41
June 8th, 2021**

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities 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 Senate Resolution 41.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent small and large 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 our economy fights to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the thousands of jobs this project will create and support are more important now than ever. However, if the pipeline is taken offline, northwest Ohio could be forced to eliminate thousands of direct and indirect good-paying jobs.

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 could experience reduced crude oil supply and would not

be able to meet product demand, thus, resulting in high prices for consumers. Without product from Line 5, Ohio – as well as the entire region – would experience severe supply chain disruptions across various industries.

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 sponsors of SR 41 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.