

March 16, 2021

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I wish to thank you for advancing House Resolution 13 and allowing Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) the opportunity to offer proponent testimony. My name is Chris Ventura, and I am the Executive Director of Consumer Energy Alliance-Midwest.

On behalf of CEA and our more than 90,000 individual members in the Great Lakes Region, I wish to share our strong support of HR 13 that has been introduced by Rep. Sheehy. We believe this resolution is important to demonstrate the necessity of Line 5 to Ohio and to the region at-large.

Founded in 2006, CEA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing virtually every sector of the U.S. economy – from the iron and steel industry to truckers, airlines, agriculture, labor unions, restaurants, chemical manufacturers, small businesses, and families. Our members support a rational, all-of-the-above energy policy that utilizes all of our domestic natural resources – both traditional and renewable – while ensuring continued progress in protecting our shared environment.

Quite simply, HR 13 continues the strong tradition of bipartisanship this chamber has repeatedly voiced in support of regional infrastructure and the relationship with our state's largest trading partner – the people of Canada.

Operating without incident on the lakebed under the Straits of Mackinac, Line 5 has been supplying Ohio with affordable and reliable energy for more than six decades. Independent analyses commissioned by the State of Michigan have found that without Line 5, families and businesses would see increased energy costs on everything from transportation fuel to propane. In Michigan alone, this would cost consumers more than \$200 million per year. The only other way to meet these daily demands is to put the energy equivalent of Line 5 onto 2,000 trucks or 800 railcars each and every day.

However, we recognize that modernizing our energy infrastructure is necessary. This is why we support the bipartisan Line 5 Tunnel Project. A tunnel that will be located in solid bed rock, up to 200 feet below the lake bed, lined with reinforced concrete.

The Line 5 Tunnel Project will ensure that Ohio's refineries will continue to have access to a safe, dependable supply of energy. It will protect the lives and livelihoods of our skilled tradesmen and women working in Northwest Ohio. It will protect families, farmers, and local businesses from increased energy costs as our economy recovers from the pandemic. And, it will continue to safeguard our Great Lakes now and into the future.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide comments on House Resolution 13 which we urge the committee to favorably report for consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.