



ICYMI: Wisconsin's Farmers, Workers and Businesses Urge U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Approve Line 5 Relocation

Groups representing more than 100,000 Wisconsin farmers, union workers and small businesses submitted comment letters in favor of the Line 5 relocation as part of the recently closed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public comment period.

Wisconsin's farmers, union workers and small businesses came together to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve the Enbridge Line 5 relocation project in Bayfield, Ashland and Iron Counties. Dozens of Wisconsin organizations submitted comments in favor of the project as part of the USACE public comment period that closed on Friday, August 30th.

Here are some excerpts from those letters:

"Our nearly 60,000 farms helped fuel an overall economic impact of \$105 billion last year and Wisconsin agriculture is responsible for over 435,000 jobs... While the Badger State offers a diverse and robust list of agricultural commodities and products, one constant among every farm and every production facility is the need for access to reliable and affordable energy. That is why we, the undersigned members of the Wisconsin Agriculture Coalition, are submitting this comment in support of the issuing of the necessary permits for the Line 5 relocation project in Northwest Wisconsin." – Wisconsin Ag Coalition members (Cooperative Network, Dairy Business Association, Growmark, Midwest Food Products Association, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Dairy Products Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association)

"On behalf of over 9,000 skilled working men and women of the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council, I am writing to convey our union's support for the Enbridge Line 5 relocation project in Northern Wisconsin, and respectfully ask the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to approve the permits associated with this critical infrastructure project." – Wisconsin Laborers' District Council

"As Enrolled tribal members, we take very seriously our duty to oversee the environment and Mother Earth. That is why we have been pleased to see Enbridge go out of their way to ensure the route and construction methods for the Line 5 project will have a very minimal impact on the environment." – Five Skies Training & Consulting

"Propane supply in Wisconsin and the greater Midwest region is already balanced on a delicate scale. The removal of Line 5 would severely disrupt this balance, leading to significant consequences. This pipeline is a vital artery for the transportation of the natural gas liquids used to make propane. The closure of Line 5 would jeopardize energy security of 280,000 homes, businesses, farms and industry that rely on this resource, especially during our harsh winter months." – Wisconsin Propane Gas Association

“WMC member businesses and Wisconsin families depend on access to affordable and reliable energy. The proposed pipeline relocation project protects access to critical energy infrastructure while simultaneously protecting the environment.” – Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce

“As local business owners and residents of the project area, we have a vested interest in not only the economic wellbeing of our area, but also the personal and environmental health of northern Wisconsin. As a tribal member, one of us also has a personal stake in the rights of the Bad River Tribe and of the land they are entrusted to protect...After reviewing the Line 5 segment relocation project proposal and both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the USACE’s Environmental Assessment, we are both confident the Line 5 relocation project will be completed safely, with very minimal impact on the environment, and in a manner that will benefit both the project area residents and the Bad River Tribe.” – LK1 Services

“The loss of a reliable energy source -like Line 5 -would increase our operating costs, making it more expensive to harvest and process our consumer goods and distribute them through the supply chain. This will contribute to elevated inflationary costs in food for everyone -from manufacturers to consumers...After more than four years of thorough review and ample opportunity for public comment, it is time to move forward with issuing the permits to allow this needed project to move forward.” – Midwest Food Products Association

“Finally, beyond the union jobs, and thoughtful approach to environmental impact that Enbridge has taken, we must consider the alternatives to not moving forward with the project. As USACE notes in the Draft EA, “there are no economically feasible transportation alternatives other than rerouting the existing pipeline outside of the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation.” No existing pipeline capacity exists to move the volume of energy transported by Line 5. And other forms of transportation - mainly rail and over the road trucking - are not only more expensive, but carry a more negative environmental impact. There is no dispute that pipelines, like Line 5, are the safest way to move the liquid fuels our state and region needs to sustain our economy.” Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association

About the Line 5 Relocation:

The project to relocate 41 miles of Line 5 off the Bad River Band’s Reservation is estimated to create over 700 Wisconsin union construction jobs, pump \$135 million into the local economy, and bring with it millions in additional tax revenue. Line 5 moves roughly 540,000 barrels of crude oil and natural gas liquids each day to refiners and propane facilities throughout the Midwest and eastern Canada. Line 5 is unique because it not only moves crude oil that is refined into transportation fuels, but it also transports natural gas liquids that are made into propane. Line 5’s owner, Enbridge, has signed a letter of intent with Wisconsin-based Michels Pipeline, Inc. as the mainline contractor for the project, and a Project Labor Agreement has been signed with the Laborers International Union of North America, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters. Enbridge has committed to allocating more than 10 percent of the \$450 million budget for the project to Native-owned businesses and the training and hiring of tribal members to work on the project.

Wisconsin organizations and businesses who submitted comments in favor of the Line 5 relocation project included, among others:

APEX	Five Skies Training and Consulting
Centergy	Futurewood
Construction Business Group	Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
Cooperative Network	Growmark
Dairy Business Association	Hawk Industries

Johnson Timber
Lakehead Constructors Inc
LK1 Services
Michels Corporation
Midwest Food Products Association
North Central States Regional Council of
Carpenters
Northern Clearing
Teamsters Local 346
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Propane Gas Association
Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Wisconsin Building Trades Council
Wisconsin Counties Association

Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association
Wisconsin Fuel and Retail Association
Wisconsin Independent Businesses
Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group
Wisconsin Laborers' District Council
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Wisconsin Paper Council
Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association
Wisconsin Soybean Association
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers
Wisconsin Pork Association
Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
International Union of Operating Engineers
Local 139
Wisconsin Infrastructure Investment Now

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The Wisconsin Jobs and Energy Coalition is a coalition of Wisconsinites working together to ensure safe, affordable, and reliable energy while creating jobs and generating economic growth in Wisconsin. Members include dozens of diverse organizations and businesses representing Wisconsin's workers, manufacturing, agriculture, and communities. Learn more at: <https://wijobsandenergy.com/>.