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Wisconsin's Workers, Small Businesses, and Farmers Praise Issuance of DNR Permits to Construct the Line 5 Relocation Project

Madison, Wis – The Wisconsin Jobs and Energy Coalition, which consists of most of the state's leading construction labor unions, business groups and agricultural organizations, praised the issuance of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permits needed to construct the Line 5 relocation project in Northwestern Wisconsin. The permits, initially applied for in 2020, have been subject to an extensive review process by the DNR and included multiple public comment opportunities.

The project reroutes a small section of Enbridge's Line 5 around the Bad River Band's reservation in Ashland County. It is estimated to create over 700 Wisconsin union construction jobs, pump \$135 million into the local economy, and generate millions in additional state and local tax revenue.

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. In fact, a public comment submitted to the DNR by major propane supplier Plains Midstream [sent a critical warning](#) that a rejection of the Line 5 relocation project would likely send Wisconsin into a propane state of emergency, leading to supply shortages and massive price increases.

"Wisconsin farmers simply can't do their jobs without the propane, diesel and gas made possible by pipelines like Line 5," said Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Brad Olson. "The issuance of the DNR's Line 5 permits is a huge step forward for our state's farmers and the hundreds of thousands of people that depend on our agricultural industry to feed their families."

"Wisconsin's propane suppliers have been patiently waiting over four years for the DNR to review this project and ensure this vital piece of the regional propane infrastructure continues to operate," said Cheryl Lytle, executive director of the Wisconsin Propane Gas Association. "We

are thankful for the Wisconsin DNR's diligence and hopeful our state can now avoid the supply and price shock closing down Line 5 would have on the 280,000 families, farms and businesses that depend on propane for heat and fuel."

"As a member of the Bad River Band, Ashland resident, and small business owner, I am glad to see the DNR recognize what us supporters of this project have been asserting for some time, that this is a necessary project that has been thoughtfully designed to minimize environmental impact," said Pat Nemec, owner of LK1 Services and member of the Bad River Tribe. "The 700 jobs, millions in additional tax revenues, and opportunities for both Native workers and Native-owned businesses involved in this project are a win for the Ashland area and for the members of the Bad River Tribe."

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 also committed to spending more than 10 percent of the \$450 million budget for the project with Native-owned businesses, including the training and hiring of tribal members.

During the Wisconsin DNR's permitting process, over two dozen of Wisconsin's leading organizations representing farmers, small businesses, labor unions and papermakers submitted comments in favor of the relocation project. Those groups included the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Propane Gas Association, Wisconsin Building Trades Council, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group, Wisconsin Laborers' District Council, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Wisconsin Pipe Trades, Wisconsin Restaurant Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association, Cooperative Network, Dairy Business Alliance, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Building Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin, Construction Business Group, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, Midwest Food Processors Association, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, Northern Wisconsin Building and Construction Trades Council and Teamsters Local 346. In fact, [an analysis](#) of public records found that Wisconsinites supported the Line 5 relocation project by a 2-to-1 margin during the DNR comment period in 2022.

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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/>.