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March 2, 2022

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Line 5 EIS Comments (EA/7)
101 South Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

To Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

I am writing to provide comments on Enbridge's proposed Line 5 Wisconsin relocation project, through the WDNR's formal comment process. The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) is based in Rhineland, and we represent more than 1000 members including loggers, truckers, foresters, large and small manufacturing mills, equipment manufacturers and dealers, school districts, sportsmen and women and landowners throughout Wisconsin, the Upper and Lower Peninsula, Minnesota and beyond.

On behalf of GLTPA and its members, we support the approval of permits by the Wisconsin DNR and welcome the construction of the Line 5 re-route as defined by Enbridge. Line 5 is a critical component to ensuring the availability of an ample, consistent, and financially viable energy sources for GLTPA's members to operate and conduct business throughout Wisconsin and the region. Like everyone else in this area, GLTPA members use propane to heat their homes and fuel to power their equipment, cars, trucks and even their lawnmowers.

Over a 32 period prior to working for GLTPA I have personally logged and hauled wood on a great deal of public and private property including the Bad River Reservation in Ashland and Iron Counties and understand the value of these lands to provide many products essential to our daily lives. In addition to working on these lands I have also recreated and hunted on properties owned by Ashland and Iron counties between the cities of Mellen and Hurley for more than 40 years. From GLTPA's perspective, forest management has helped maintain and improve forest health in these areas and we have every reason to believe the Department, in working with Enbridge, will adhere to the same or more stringent management guidelines to ensure the natural resources are conserved with little environmental impact for the future quality of these areas.

As I listened to oral testimony during the virtual hearing, I was in awe of the number of people from outside of Wisconsin (I do not know if they have ever visited) who spoke favorably of Wisconsin and in particular the beauty of the Northwoods.



From my perspective as a Wisconsin born and raised life-long Ashland County resident, the beauty they spoke of includes the area in which the current 70-year-old pipeline is buried and has been in place longer than the 66 years I've been alive. Because no one singled out Line 5 as an eye soar it apparently blends in with the landscape quite well and has caused no environmental or ecological damage whatsoever. At least that is what can be logically surmised from previous testimony.

In reviewing Enbridge's proposal for the reroute of Line 5 around the Bad River Reservation, we are confident the work will be done within established forest management parameters. In their considerations and process used to develop the proposed route, Enbridge thoroughly surveyed and selected a route to avoid sensitive resources and areas. As learned with the use of forest management plans utilized by the timber industry; habitat changes and different animal species occupy the managed areas.

In addition, and much like forest management, mitigation programs are put in place to minimize the risk of invasive species in this adjusted habitat. Enbridge has surveyed the locations of invasive species along the route, and it is GLTPA's understanding Enbridge will work with the counties as appropriate regarding management of those species in forested areas. I also want to note that we appreciate that Enbridge will be using timber-based mats during construction to minimize wetland disturbance. These efforts, along with the reduction of construction workspace in sensitive areas, represents the use of best management practices to mitigate and reduce potential environmental impact to the project footprint and adjacent areas.

Much has changed in the 70 years since Line 5 was first put in service including the increased value placed on natural resources and the types of construction utilized for a project such as this. Based on these changes and the past performance of Enbridge and Line 5 in this area, there are no logical reasons to not approve this project.

On behalf of the GLTPA, we support the approval of the permits by the Wisconsin DNR and welcome the construction of the Line 5 re-route as defined by Enbridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry Schienebeck".

Henry Schienebeck
Executive Director
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Jensen".

Matt Jensen
President
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association