

## **Media Advisory**

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## **Report on Line 5, “Canadian Profits, Michigan Risk,” to be released by Groundwork May 30.**

The Line 5 oil pipeline that crosses the bottomlands of the Mackinac Straits is a bad deal for Michigan. Line 5 puts at risk hundreds of businesses, thousands of jobs, and property values along untold miles of shore, while virtually all the benefits of the line go to the Canadian petrochemical industry, according to Groundwork research in a white paper titled “Canadian Profits, Michigan Risk,” to be released May 30, 2018.

The same unacceptable deal would be true of a replacement tunnel that Michigan leaders are rushing to recommend.

Enbridge, Inc., has been remarkably effective at convincing Michigan political leaders and citizens that the state must endure the risk posed by Line 5, implying the pipeline is important to Michigan’s economy.

But as researchers from Groundwork show, nearly all of the crude oil that Line 5 carries passes through Michigan to Canada. Line 5 is a Canadian pipeline transporting oil from western Canadian oil fields to, primarily, eastern Canadian refineries. Michigan can decommission the Line 5 pipeline with no economic disruption to the state, while protecting our Great Lakes.

### **Other key findings:**

- An important but tiny percent of Line 5 product is propane that heats Upper Peninsula homes and businesses. Groundwork’s report points out that U.P. propane can be reliably delivered by trucks. If increased costs result for consumers, Michigan can offset the increase with funds from the state’s clean energy funds, so there is no cost increase for U.P. propane customers or taxpayers.
- Oil extracted from northern Lower Michigan oil wells also makes up a small percent of Line 5 crude oil. This oil could also be transported by trucks that are readily available.
- Groundwork’s white paper also shows that Michigan’s one refinery and other Midwest refineries will have access to adequate oil supplies even if Line 5 is shut down. Since 2010, Enbridge has added enough potential capacity in Line 78 (formerly Line 6B) to completely replace the Line 5 capacity.

Nearly twenty years ago, the legislature under Gov. John Engler made it illegal to slant drill for oil under the Great Lakes. Line 5 presents far more hazard than slant drilling, while providing little reward. The vast majority of Michigan citizens want their elected officials to protect the Great Lakes. The time has come to decommission Line 5 and rely on less risky transportation options for U.P.

propane and northeast Michigan oil.

Groundwork will release the white paper, titled “Canadian Profits, Michigan Risk” at a **press conference scheduled 11 a.m., Wednesday, May 30 at Mackinac Island Public School, Mackinac Island. To participate by conference call, dial 712.770.4035, pass code: 73236.**

For interviews and a copy of the report, contact Groundwork Program Director Jim Lively ([jim@groundworkcenter.org](mailto:jim@groundworkcenter.org) // 231.360.7222) or Communications Director Jeff Smith ([jeff@groundworkcenter.org](mailto:jeff@groundworkcenter.org) // 231.499.5874).

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