

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear President Biden:

We write to you today with grave concern regarding your Administration's destructive actions regarding our domestic energy production and the critical bilateral relationship the United States maintains with our Northern neighbor and critical ally, Canada.

On November 8, 2021, your Deputy Press Secretary confirmed there are ongoing efforts in the White House and the Army Corps of Engineers to examine the impacts of shutting down the Enbridge Line 5 (Line 5) pipeline that travels from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario. This follows a year-long effort from Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to unilaterally shutdown Line 5 by revoking an easement that allows the pipeline to operate in the Straits of Mackinac, Michigan.

Your policies have already crippled the production capabilities of our domestic energy producers. We see this every day in the decades-high prices Americans are paying at the pump, to keep the lights on, and to heat their homes. The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects many Americans will pay upwards of 54 percent more in heating costs this winter than they did last year.¹ These prices continue to fuel inflation and impose a tax on every middle- and working-class American. The revocation of the Line 5 permits would only worsen this crisis, without any environmental benefit, as the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration confirmed earlier this year that "there are presently no integrity concerns" with the pipeline resulting from their inspection data².

Further, your Administration's actions, both by terminating the Keystone XL pipeline and by refusing to reciprocate Canada's decision to open their border to all travel months ago, have only served to exacerbate your energy crisis and degrade the U.S. – Canada partnership. Canada is one of our closest allies and a key energy trade partner. Revoking the Line 5 permits would permanently close refineries throughout the Great Lakes and Canada, result in over \$20 billion in lost economic output, and drastically increase energy prices for all Americans.³

We urge you to carry out U.S. commitments to Canada and uphold the Transit Pipelines Treaty of 1977 and cease any plans to harm this critical pipeline. By signing the 1977 Treaty, the United

¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Winter Fuels Outlook (2021)

² Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Letter to Congressman Latta (2021)

³ Consumer Energy Alliance, The Regional Economic and Fiscal Impacts of an Enbridge Line 5 Shutdown (2021)

States undertook a legally binding commitment with the Canadians to not interfere with the operation of international hydrocarbon transit pipelines. Under this treaty, no public authority in either nation shall institute any measures which are intended to, or which have the effect of, interfering with the transmission of hydrocarbons in transit.⁴

Any action violating this treaty would only continue to exacerbate your current energy crisis and harm our centuries-old friendship with the Canadians. We urge you to consider both the short- and long-term impacts of revoking permits for Enbridge Line 5 and to uphold our nation's obligations under the Transit Pipelines Treaty of 1977.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress

⁴ Transit Pipelines agreement between the United States of America and Canada, Jan. 28, 1977, 28 U.S.T. 7449.