



## National Wildlife Federation

Great Lakes Regional Center

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To: Interested Parties  
Fr: National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center  
Re: May 2018 EPIC-MRA Poll Questions on Line 5, the Mackinac Straits Oil Pipeline  
Date: May 17, 2018

Across every political party and region of the state, Michigan voters are concerned about Line 5 and want it shut down, according to the recent EPIC-MRA statewide poll. The poll sampled 600 likely voters (including 30% on cell phones) between April 30 and May 3, 2018, through live interviewers. The margin for error is  $\pm 4\%$ .

Voters were asked the following questions:

*A Canadian company, Enbridge, operates a pipeline that transports 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids each day along the bottom of the Great Lakes at the Straits of Mackinac. The oil and natural gas transported in the pipeline come mostly from Canada and are mostly destined for sale NOT in the United States. The pipeline, known as Line 5, was built in 1953. It is missing some protective coating and structural supports, and recently a boat anchor dented it in several places. Knowing that, how concerned are you that Line 5 could rupture, causing an oil spill into the Great Lakes – very concerned, somewhat concerned, only a little concerned, or not concerned at all?*

*Based on what you may know or have heard or read, do you think Line 5 should be closed down and removed from the Great Lakes, or, do you think it should remain open and continue to operate?*

*Thinking about the candidates running for governor and state legislature, as well as Congress, if a candidate for public office supports keeping Line 5 open and opposes closing it down, will you be more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote for him or her, or, would you say that a candidate's position on Line 5 won't influence you one way or the other?*

The results tell a consistent story: A vast majority of likely Michigan voters are concerned about a Line 5 oil spill, and a majority want it shut down, including a majority or a plurality across every region and political party. Additionally, Voters who want Line 5 shut down are more likely than those who want it kept open to vote for a candidate based on their Line 5 position.

#### STATEWIDE & REGIONAL

- **87% of Michigan residents are concerned about Line 5.** (64% very concerned, 23% somewhat concerned).
- **A majority (54%) of Michigan voters say Line 5 should be closed down and removed from the Great Lakes. 22% say Line 5 should remain open** (a greater than 2-1 margin for shutting down Line 5).
- **64% of northern Michigan Voters want Line 5 shut down**, compared to only 20% who say it should remain open.
- **In every region, voters who want Line 5 shut down outnumber those who want to keep it open by at least 20 points.**

#### POLITICAL PARTIES:

- A majority of Independent voters want Line 5 shut down (56%-17%).
- A super majority of Democrats want Line 5 shut down (66%-13%).
- A plurality of Republican voters want Line 5 shut down (37%-35%).

#### ISSUE ENTHUSIASM:

- Voters who want Line 5 shut down are more likely than those who want it kept open to vote for a candidate based on their Line 5 position.
- Voters are evenly split on whether Line 5 will influence their vote. 46% percent of likely voters say that a candidate's position on Line 5 will influence their vote, while 46% say it will not.
- **Of those who say a candidate's support for Line 5 will influence their vote, 84% (39% overall) say that a candidate's support for Line 5 will make them less likely to vote for the candidate, while only 15% (7% overall) say it will make them more likely to vote for that candidate.**

#### VOTERS WHO VIEW TRUMP FAVORABLY

- 78% of Trump favorable voters are concerned about Line 5
- A plurality of Trump favorable voters say Line 5 should close (38-34%)
- By a 4-to-1 margin, Trump favorable voters are less likely to support a candidate in favor of Line 5 (29%), than to support a pro-Line 5 candidate (7%).

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**EPIC•MRA STATEWIDE POLL OF ACTIVE AND LIKELY NOVEMBER  
2018 VOTERS**

**[FREQUENCY REPORT OF SURVEY RESPONSES - 600 SAMPLE -  
ERROR ±4.0%]**

*Polling Dates: April 30, 2018 through May 3, 2018  
Conducted by live interviewers – included 30% cell phones*

On another topic...

\_\_21. A Canadian company, Enbridge, operates a pipeline that transports 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids each day along the bottom of the Great Lakes at the Straits of Mackinac. The oil and natural gas transported in the pipeline come mostly from Canada and are mostly destined for sale NOT in the United States. The pipeline, known as Line 5, was built in 1953. It is missing some protective coating and structural supports, and recently a boat anchor dented it in several places. Knowing that, how concerned are you that Line 5 could rupture, causing an oil spill into the Great Lakes – very concerned, somewhat concerned, only a little concerned, or not concerned at all?

64%	Very concerned
23%	Somewhat concerned
<b>87%</b>	<b>TOTAL CONCERNED</b>
8%	Only a little concerned
4%	Not concerned at all
1%	Undecided/Refused

\_\_22. Based on what you may know or have heard or read, do you think Line 5 should be closed down and removed from the Great Lakes, or, do you think it should remain open and continue to operate?

54%	Line 5 should be closed down and removed from the Great Lakes
22%	Line 5 should remain open and continue to operate
24%	Undecided/Refused

Now I am going to describe an alternative method of transporting the oil and natural gas liquids if Line 5 is shut down. Please tell me if you support or oppose this method. **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Would that be strongly or somewhat?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

		<b><u>Strongly Support</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL Support</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>Strongly Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>DK/ Undec</u></b>
_23.	Rerouting oil and natural gas liquids through existing pipelines, which DO NOT cross underneath the Great Lakes.	33%	<b>77%</b>	<b>10%</b>	5%	13%

\_\_24. Thinking about the candidates running for governor and state legislature, as well as Congress, if a candidate for public office supports keeping Line 5 open and opposes closing it down, will you be more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote for him or her, or, would you say that a candidate's position on Line 5 won't influence you one way or the other? **[IF MORE/ LESS LIKELY, ASK]: "Would that be much or somewhat (more/less likely)?" AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

3%	Much more likely
4%	Somewhat more likely
<b>7%</b>	<b>TOTAL MORE LIKELY</b>
46%	Won't influence vote one way or the other
<b>39%</b>	<b>TOTAL LESS LIKELY</b>
19%	Somewhat less likely
20%	Much less likely
8%	Undecided/Refused