

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 24, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

This letter is in regards to the Line 5 pipeline operated by Enbridge Energy that runs between the Straits of Mackinac in northern Michigan. Under the terms of their consent decree, Enbridge is required to conduct an investigation into how aquatic species are impacting the integrity of the pipeline. In their "Biota Investigation Work Plan", which was submitted to EPA on September 27, 2016, Enbridge identified several potential "holidays" on the pipeline where there may be a loss of protective coating around the pipe. We urge you to review Enbridge's work plan in an expedited fashion so these vulnerabilities can be investigated as soon as possible.

As you know, 23 million gallons of oil flow through the two pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac every day. A spill in that location would have a devastating impact on the Great Lakes and the economy of the surrounding states. In fact, a study by the University of Michigan and supported by the National Wildlife Federation found that more than 15% of Lake Michigan's open water and nearly 60% of Lake Huron's open water could be affected by visible oil in a spill in the Straits. This only further underscores the urgency of investigating these vulnerabilities as soon as possible.

It is our understanding that Enbridge's work plan must be approved this spring in order for the inspections to move forward this year. Delaying the inspections another year could allow more corrosion to occur. We therefore urge you to review Enbridge's work plan in an urgent and expeditious manner so inspections can occur this year.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and we are looking forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Dave Trott  
Member of Congress