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August 23, 2016

C. Heidi Grether
Director
Department of Environmental Quality
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Grether:

First, I would like to congratulate you on your new position with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). With over 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and thriving recreational, commercial and ecotourism industries, the state of Michigan depends on a healthy environment for its livelihood. Therefore, the role of DEQ Director is one of the most critical positions in the state government, and I urge you to approach this new opportunity with open-mindedness and receptiveness to the challenges that you inherited and those that may lie ahead.

I write to you today after reading your recent comments regarding Enbridge Line 5. It is my understanding that you believe it is premature to discuss shutting down Line 5 and that, even if it was time to shut down Line 5, the state of Michigan does not have any control over that process. I could not disagree with you more on this position.

As you know, millions of gallons of hazardous liquids are transported through pipelines across various points of the Great Lakes every day, including Enbridge Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac and several others under the St. Clair River in my district. Ensuring the safe operation of these pipelines is of paramount concern to me. There is zero room for error in the Great Lakes, especially the environmentally sensitive area in the Straits. Any rupture of a pipeline in this area would be catastrophic, particularly due to the strong currents making containment difficult.

You may recall that it was only a few years ago that Enbridge's Line 6B experienced a disastrous oil spill in the Kalamazoo River in southwest Michigan. This was the largest on-shore oil spill in U.S. history, and it took nearly four years to clean up. Imagine a similar oil spill in the water where the elements are more difficult to control for remediation. Such an event would cripple the state's economy and could severely damage the ecosystem in the Great Lakes.

After that spill, we had our own personal experience with Line 6B in southeast Michigan. The integrity of the pipeline running under the St. Clair River had some anomalies. I expressed grave

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concern about these dents, but Enbridge's initial solution was to reduce the pipeline pressure by half. This was not an acceptable fix and, after tremendous input from the public, Enbridge subsequently replaced the entire 3,600 foot portion of the pipeline under the St. Clair River. This lesson demonstrates that persistence and transparency are key elements to ensuring that oil companies are doing everything within their power to make these pipelines safe for transporting their product.

Enbridge Line 5 is a 63-year old pipeline. As with any aging infrastructure, there are integrity issues that must be properly monitored and addressed. To state that it is premature to discuss shutting down Line 5 takes one punitive measure off the table and limits the amount of leverage that would compel Enbridge to ensure proper maintenance of its pipelines. Earlier this month, the state announced that Enbridge violated its 1953 pipeline easement, which mandates certain anchors support gaps across the lakebed where the Line 5 pipelines sit. It is my understanding that Enbridge is in the process of installing new supports. It is important to keep in mind that, without strenuous oversight and involvement by the state, this violation may not have been uncovered – or, if it was, it may not have been discovered before it was too late.

While you are correct in stating that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is the federal agency with power over the operation of pipelines, the federal pipeline safety statutes divest considerable authority to the states – especially with inspections. It is shortsighted to imply that the state of Michigan plays no role in considering whether or not a pipeline should be shut down. As the head of one of the most important agencies in our state, I believe you can lead by example and spearhead the discussion among all of the relevant stakeholders – those at the federal, state, local, and international level.

I stand ready to work with you in ensuring that our Great Lakes and state continue to thrive, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Sincerely,



Candice S. Miller