



# Attorney General Bill Schuette Statement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Schuette Statement on Governor's Line 5 Announcement

**LANSING** – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today released the following [statement](#) in response to an announcement about new Line 5 pipeline actions taken by Gov. Rick Snyder:

“Today’s announcement is a good step forward toward fulfilling our responsibilities to protect the Great Lakes and the health of Michigan citizens.”

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Gretchen Whitmer Statement on Line 5 Announcement**

**LANSING, MICHIGAN** – Today, Former Senate Democratic Leader and Ingham County Prosecutor Gretchen Whitmer released the following statement after Governor Rick Snyder announced an agreement with Enbridge Energy regarding the future of Line 5.

“These steps are a handful of belated half-measures that put far too much faith in a company that has consistently misled the public. This isn't enough, and for the sake of the one million jobs that depend on the health of our Great Lakes, we must do everything in our power to protect them. That is why as Governor, I will immediately file to enjoin the easement and begin the legal process to decommission Line 5, and anything short of that is insincere.

Asking Enbridge for another study is about as effective as asking a fox to guard a hen house. Replacing a fraction of a 645-mile pipe under the St. Clair River means very little to someone whose job depends on the Great Lakes. And there's no weather, including "sustained adverse weather," that permits timely response to an oil spill. It's time for Michigan to elect a Governor who has a real plan to get the oil out of the great lakes."

In June, Whitmer called on Governor Snyder to enter Michigan into the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance when President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the climate agreement. The Governor responded, and did not enter Michigan into the U.S. Climate Alliance.

More than one million Michigan jobs in agriculture, fishing, and tourism are anchored on the Great Lakes. As Governor, Whitmer is committed to bringing everyone to the table to develop a long-term plan to get oil out of the Great Lakes and negotiate the shut-down of Line 5 without miring the state in lawsuits.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 27, 2017

## Environmental Leaders Criticize Snyder-Enbridge Deal on Line 5

Key citizens groups leading the campaign to protect the Great Lakes from an oil spill reacted to the announcement of a new agreement by the state with Enbridge Energy Partners on its controversial Line 5 oil pipelines by criticizing a key portion of the deal that potentially allows Enbridge to continue operating in the Straits of Mackinac.

“Nothing short of ending the flow of oil through the Straits will protect the Great Lakes from a catastrophic spill,” said **Liz Kirkwood**, Executive Director of **FLOW**. “It’s remarkable given Enbridge’s pattern and practice of lying to the state about Line 5’s condition that the governor is now trusting Enbridge to abide by a new agreement. This puts the future of the Great Lakes in the hands of Enbridge.”

Measures announced today by the governor that would temporarily shut down Line 5 during some severe storm events and implement more safety measures for the pipeline should be interim measures taken until Line 5 is decommissioned by the state, the groups said.

“Putting in more technology to ensure we find out sooner when Line 5 ruptures is not the same as protecting the Great Lakes,” said **Anne Woiwode**, Conservation Chair for the **Sierra Club Michigan Chapter**. “These are good steps but they are only band aids and we are concerned that instead of protecting the Great Lakes they will be seen as permanent solutions. They are not.”

“Moreover, it is imprudent and arbitrary for the Governor to unilaterally sign a deal with Enbridge before the legal processes and evidence including the opinion of experts on all sides have been thoroughly reviewed and completed,” said **Jim Olson**, environmental attorney and President of **FLOW**. “Governor Snyder appears to have prematurely ignored and violated his own executive order, law, rules and once more ignored his public trust duties toward the Great Lakes, water, public health and safety, and the protection of citizens.”

On Nov. 16 the Great Lakes Resource Committee of Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), representing five Michigan Native American tribes, came out in opposition to replacing Line 5 in the Straits with a tunneled pipelines, saying it would not eliminate risks of an oil spill

in the Straits area waters within the boundaries of an 1836 treaty protecting their fishing rights. CORA is comprised of representatives of the Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band Of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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