Public Perceptions of the Line 5 Pipeline in Michigan
A Summary Report for Policymakers

Introduction
This report presents key findings from a portion of the Fall 2018 Michigan State of the State Survey (SOSS) focused on the Line 5 underwater oil pipeline, particularly a 4-mile section of Line 5 that carries over a half million barrels of crude oil or natural gas liquids each day beneath the Straits of Mackinac. This section of the Line 5 was constructed in 1953 and is owned and operated by Enbridge LLC.

Key Findings
• Of the 955 adults surveyed, 60% (n = 569) responded that they were aware of Line 5. 36% (n = 347) were not aware of Line 5, and 4% (n = 39) did not know or refused to provide a response.

• Of those respondents aware of Line 5, 44% (n = 245) reported being extremely concerned about the pipeline spilling oil into the Straits of Mackinac, compared to only 6% (n = 32) who reported not being at all concerned.

• Of those respondents aware of Line 5, 42% (n = 241) reported being more concerned about a spill occurring when the Straits are covered in ice than when the waters are open. Only 18% (n = 100) of respondents were less concerned about a spill occurring in icy conditions.

• Of those respondents aware of Line 5, 47% of respondents (n = 200) reported that the economic benefit of Line 5 was not worth the environmental risk. This was compared to only 31% who believe the pipeline’s economic benefit is worth the environmental risk.

• Of those respondents aware of Line 5, 25% (n = 142) reported that the pipeline should be permanently shut down and not replaced. 14% believed the pipeline should be left as-is, and 52% reported that Line 5 should be shut down and replaced.

• 47% of the Democrats surveyed believe Line 5 should be permanently shut down and not replaced, compared to only 5% of Republicans. The majority of both Democrats (51%) and Republicans (65%) surveyed believe Line 5 should be shut down and replaced.

* The SOSS is administered by the Office of Survey Research housed within the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) of Michigan State University. SOSS is a public opinion survey employing Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) technology to interview a stratified random sample of approximately 1,000 Michigan adults.

Question Text: Are you aware of Line 5, the underwater oil pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac?

Question Text: On a scale from 1-5, rate your level of concern regarding Line 5 spilling oil in the Straits of Mackinac, with 1 being not at all concerned and 5 being extremely concerned.

Question Text: Should an underwater oil spill occur in the Great Lakes, would you be more or less concerned if the spill occurred when the Lakes are covered in ice than when the waters are open?

Question Text: On a scale from 1 - 5, rate your level of agreement with the following statement, with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree: ‘The environmental risk associated with Line 5 is worth the economic benefit it provides.’

Question Text: Should Line 5 be permanently shut down and not replaced, shut down and replaced, or left as-is?

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