

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 282

Rep. Markkanen offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to support the timely issuing of permits for the
2 construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel Project and to support the
3 private investment and employment opportunities afforded by the
4 project.

5 Whereas, The Enbridge Line 5 pipeline is critical
6 infrastructure for the state of Michigan. Residents in the Upper
7 Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula rely on the Enbridge Line 5
8 pipeline to heat their homes and support the local economy. In
9 addition to providing energy for northern Michigan, the Line 5
10 pipeline meets the energy and petroleum demand of the entire upper
11 Midwest; and

12 Whereas, After consideration and negotiation, the state and
13 Enbridge agreed that a multi-use utility tunnel beneath the Straits



1 of Mackinac is the best long-term solution to ensure Michigan's
2 sustainable energy future while also protecting the Great Lakes far
3 into the future. The construction of the tunnel will allow for the
4 replacement of a segment of the Line 5 pipeline that currently
5 crosses the bottom of the straits; and

6 Whereas, The Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority (MSCA)
7 entered into the Tunnel Agreement with Enbridge for the
8 construction of a utility tunnel - the Great Lakes Tunnel Project -
9 on December 19, 2018, in conjunction with the agreements between
10 the state and Enbridge. The constitutionality of the MSCA has been
11 upheld by the Michigan Court of Claims and the Michigan Court of
12 Appeals; and

13 Whereas, The Great Lakes Tunnel Project is an environmentally
14 wise option for the state. The tunnel will mitigate the risk of an
15 oil spill in the Great Lakes and will improve the ability to safely
16 and efficiently transmit energy resources across the state; and

17 Whereas, The construction of the tunnel will produce
18 significant economic benefits. Private investment for the project
19 is estimated to be over \$500 million. The construction of the
20 tunnel will require approximately 2 million work hours from many of
21 Michigan's skilled-trade workers, including welders, operators,
22 pipe fitters, laborers, and other trades, and maintenance of the
23 tunnel will create high-paying, union jobs that will be a boon to
24 local communities; and

25 Whereas, Officials in at least 20 counties, and numerous local
26 governments, have passed resolutions in support of the tunnel and
27 to urge the state to assist in ensuring the quick construction of
28 the tunnel; now, therefore, be it

29 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we support the



1 timely issuing of permits for the construction of the Great Lakes
2 Tunnel Project; and be it further

3 Resolved, That we support the private investment and
4 employment opportunities afforded by the Great Lakes Tunnel
5 Project; and be it further

6 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
7 Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of
8 Engineers, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
9 Director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes,
10 and Energy, and the members of the Michigan Public Service
11 Commission.