June 20, 2020

Mr. Monaco,

I received your letter earlier today responding to my correspondence yesterday evening about the damage to the anchor support on the east leg of the Line 5 dual pipelines that run through the Straits of Mackinac. Thank you for your commitment to provide the information I requested; I trust we will receive all digital information today.

My understanding is that at 1:59 pm this afternoon, shortly after your letter arrived, Enbridge notified Directors Eichinger and Clark of the following by email:

As we have verified that the west leg is not affected, we will resume normal operations on that line today at approximately 2:00 PM Eastern Time. However, the east leg will remain shut down.

Given the gravity of this matter, I was taken aback to learn the company has unilaterally resumed operation of the west leg without even opportunity for discussion. At this moment, Enbridge is pumping crude through the Great Lakes on state-owned bottomlands without any explanation for the cause of this damage to the pipeline structure and no assurance that Enbridge has taken sufficient steps to mitigate future harm. This disregard for the safety and well-being of our Great Lakes, and Enbridge’s due care obligations under the 1953 Easement, is unacceptable.

I ask that Enbridge immediately shut down the dual pipelines that run through the Straits of Mackinac until this incident is investigated, assessed, and preventive measures are put
in place. In addition to responding to my prior information request, I ask that Enbridge provide a full report as to the cause of this damage and what measures Enbridge will put in place to prevent this harm from happening again. Once the state, or a third-party selected by the state, has reviewed this information, we can discuss when normal operations may resume.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Liesl Clark, Director, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, State of Michigan
    Dan Eichinger, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Michigan
    Alan K. Mayberry, Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation