Isabelle Ciarrocchi iciarrocchi Grand Valley State University

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3:48 .11 5G 44 **STRICTLYBIZZNES Posts** strictlybizznes Straits of Mackinac 1/4 $\triangle \bigcirc \triangle$ Liked by korinforthewin and 24 others strictlybizznes Water is sacred. Water is life.

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Line 5 is an OUTDATED oil-and-gas pipeline that poses unacceptable risks of an oil spill, especially as it travels along the lakebed through the Straits of Mackinac in a four-mile section known as the dual pipelines. These straits not only provide drinking water to 5 million Michigan residents, but they represent a sacred site where the creation story of the Anishinaabek Peoples begins, the Heart of Turtle Island to the rest of North America providing the life source to the rest of North America. Traditional medicines and foods are grown on these shores, and sacred species live in these waters.

Lately, I have been learning so much about the struggles of the Indigenous Peoples of our country and the issues faced within their communities, specifically in relation to environmental issues. Enbridge's Line 5 oil pipeline presents on imminent threat to the sovereign rights of many Tribes and First Nations in the Great Lakes region. The line runs through treaty seated territory which is an intergral part of indigenous life. Every SINGLE Indigenous tribe and community in Michigan, including the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community, have been expressing their opposition of the line for a very long time.

Since its construction, Line 5 has spilled more than 1.1 million gallons of oil in 33 separate spills. The longer this goes on, the more we are furthering an already impending disaster for our Lakes. The line is already decrepit and was not built to last this long in the first place.

There is ongoing research backing the several alternatives to this outdated pipeline. The several orders to shut down and decommission segments of the line continue to be ignored and pushed under the rug. It is our duty to hold officials responsible for protecting the health of our Great Lakes and Indigenous Peoples.











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