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*The future of the Earth is in our Hands.*

# CACC NEWS

JOHN AND CARRIE WALES  
Center for Environmental and Social Justice

[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)

## THE PAY OFF FOR PERSISTANCE

From **BENTLEY JOHNSON**  
Federal Government Affairs Director  
for Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Recently, there was big news in our shared, years-long battle to protect the Great Lakes from Enbridge's dangerous Line 5 oil pipeline: **the Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear challenges to Enbridge's permit to build a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac!**

The Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi – together with the Environmental Law and Policy Center and the Michigan Climate Action Network – are challenging the permit.

This is a huge development – and it's happening because of the hard work of our partners, tribal nations, and environmental advocates like YOU who have fought tirelessly to hold Enbridge accountable.

The challengers argue that the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) ignored critical evidence about spill risks, failed to respect treaty rights, and neglected its duty to protect our waters under the public trust doctrine. By agreeing to hear the case, the Michigan Supreme Court has signaled that these concerns deserve to be heard at the highest level.

**At the same time, we're up against strong headwinds.** Trump's Department of Justice has filed in federal court to back Enbridge, arguing that Michigan has no right to shut down the pipeline and pushing to fast-track the tunnel project. This move shows just how far the oil industry and its allies are willing to go to keep Line 5 pumping oil through our Great Lakes — even at the expense of our water, communities, and climate.

**But here's the good news: our movement is strong and is making a real difference.** From the courtroom to the Capitol, Michigan LCV and our partners are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Michigan's tribes, local communities, and grassroots advocates to protect our Great Lakes, economy, and way of life. Together, we are fighting to ensure Enbridge is not the only voice in the room.

**This moment is worth celebrating.** The fight is far from over, but thanks to people like you who stay engaged, we are moving closer to a future where Line 5 is no longer a looming threat to our state and the Great Lakes.

We'll continue to keep you updated every step of the way. For now, take heart: we have momentum on our side.

## CACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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Contact any board member by emailing [board@caccmi.org](mailto:board@caccmi.org) and noting their name in the subject line.

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PO Box 175  
Pinconning, MI 48650-0175  
[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)

**(989) 200-3831**

**Newsletter Edited by:**  
Marcia Ellwanger

**Newsletter Layout/Design:**  
Marcia Ellwanger

CACC is a proud member of Michigan Environmental Council, Earth Justice and Beyond Nuclear.

In July John Witucki & I participated in a day of advocacy in Lansing with two groups from the Upper Peninsula, Protect the Porkies and Citizens for a Safe and Clean Lake Superior. Our goal was to prevent taxpayer funding from going to the Copperwood Mine.

We met with Representatives and Senators and let them know that people don't approve of this project and its funding by taxpayer dollars. Making them aware of the waste and how close it would be to Lake Superior.

At the Wheatland Music Festival I made available preprinted postcards for anyone to send to their Senator urging them to exclude the \$50 million grant for Wakefield township and protect the purity of Lake Superior.

**Letter writing, Phone calls, and in person visits paid off!!!**

***\$50 million dollars of funding to support a copper mine project in Michigan's Upper Peninsula has been cut from the new state budget.***

The mine has been incredibly controversial. It received support from economic developers and some local lawmakers, while other lawmakers as well as some environmental groups voiced concerns.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), copper mining makes up the largest percentage of processing waste in the US. The agency stated that mining of copper can concentrate and extract radioactive materials.

"I think it was very wise to cut funding for infrastructure in uninhabited areas, especially in a place where people visit to escape all of that stuff," Tom Grotewohl (Founder of Protect the Porkies) said. "There just aren't enough gains to outweigh the significant harms of this project."

Tom Grotewohl said their campaign will continue, because the project could still advance through private investment or other funding sources. Let's show him that we at CACC are going to stay behind Protect the Porkies to stop this project!



Submitted by Marcia Ellwanger



We all lost one of our most colorful and unique persons a few months ago. On July 5, Stanley "Stas" Yascolt passed away after a long illness. As a Life member of CACC Stas was an anti-nuclear, anti-war and enviro activist for many decades. He also had a beautiful voice and sang Polish hymns in a men's church choir and was a very big fan of live auctions. He frequently went home with MUCH more "stuff" than he needed or had space for. He was a kind soul and would loudly sing out at the CACC annual "silent" auctions held at our general membership meetings in June and at Wheatland. He brought smiles to a lot of friends for many years.

### **A Very Big Thank You!**

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that were involved in this year's annual Wheatland Kitchen Fundraiser. It takes a lot of work and good people to pull off feeding the masses. We are lucky that we have such an awesome group of people who show up for us every year. If you are interested in volunteering again next year I am hoping to have the list made by the beginning of June and all payments received by the end of June so we can send the wristbands out in the mail next year. So be watching your emails in May for confirmation of attendance.

Thank you, Laura Sanderson

Volunteer Coordinator ([volunteer@caccmi.org](mailto:volunteer@caccmi.org))

### **A short note from the Chair**

Although few of us were active in CACC a decade or two ago, our group was quite an active "player" back then. For about 20 years we held a widely attended environmental conference called the Backyard Eco Conference. These were held at several local camps near Lake, MI. At their peak, we had over 300 attendees, mostly Michigan residents aging from children to adults as well as out of state participants. Nationally known speakers held workshops over 3 days. Annie planned it for most of those years and I put it together for its last 6 or 8 years. Another reason to thank Annie for her good energy and to be proud of our group for helping make our planet a better place for all!

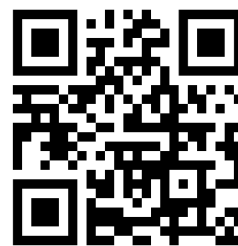
Thank you, John Witucki

Chairman CACC Board

If you are interested in becoming more involved with CACC and participating in events held throughout the year, please feel free to reach out to any board member.

See our Facebook group page for more.

Or check out our website.



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