

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We write to encourage the State Department to reopen the public comment period for the consideration of a permit for a 98-year-old pipeline that would potentially carry crude oil under the St. Clair River. Given the importance of this decision to local communities and stakeholders in Michigan, we need to ensure all voices have the opportunity to be heard before the Department renders a final decision.

We are deeply concerned about the transportation of crude oil in the Great Lakes. After experiencing one of the largest inland oil spills in U.S. history, Michiganders are all too familiar with the devastating consequences that a pipeline break can have on our environment and economy. The limited number of public comments received on this regulatory matter is not indicative of a lack of interest by our constituents. Rather, it reflects a lack of time for members of our communities to sufficiently review the proposal and submit comments.

It is crucial that information about the pipeline is made publically available and that additional input opportunities are provided so that local community members and stakeholders can fully evaluate and offer feedback on the potential risks the pipeline poses to our environment and the public health.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We hope you will see fit to extend the comment period for this critically important permitting decision.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator