

Sault Tribe Nokomis Ogichidaa Line 5 Rally, Nov. 8 Just Say 'NO' to Line 5 Tunnel

SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Tribe Nokomis Ogichidaa are holding a “Just Say ‘NO’ to Line 5 Tunnel” rally Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Mackinac Bridge. The Mackinac Bridge Authority is holding its regular meeting that morning at 9 a.m. at Little Bear Arena in St. Ignace, just before the rally. The Bridge Authority meeting will provide an opportunity for citizens to weigh in on Gov. Snyder’s lame duck deal with Enbridge’s Line 5 tunnel plan.

Organizers aim to spread awareness that Michigan’s governor, at the tail end of an administration that has done nothing to solve this looming disaster, is attempting to hand over the Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel to the Mackinac Bridge Authority. The arrangement would keep governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer from undoing the agreement — a dangerous project with dangerous consequences for all Great Lakes residents. It would take 10 years to build the tunnel and the deal lets Enbridge run Line 5 during that decade, unless it explodes.

Great Lakes tribal leadership have been invited and the rally is open to the public. All those who care about the waters, please join us in support! The rally will be held at Bridgeview Park, next to the Mackinac Bridge north side. It begins at 10 a.m. with speakers.

A water ceremony will be held at noon. In the Anishinaabe lifeway, women are the protectors of the water. Water means life and health, and women conduct water ceremonies and pray for the water. “Nokomis Ogichidaa” means “Grandmother Warrior,” grandmother signifying leadership and authority. Anishinaabe men help women with this duty.

“We as grandmothers and mothers have a responsibility to our children to do everything we can for the future of our resource and lifeblood,” said Unit II Director Lana Causley. “This is a grassroots effort led by women to protect and educate of the dangers we face when our water is threatened. We will gather humbly, yet assertively, and commit ourselves to that protection that is needed today and always.”

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