



Canada's propane industry says discontinuation of Enbridge Line 5 is not an option

OTTAWA, MARCH 19, 2021 – In its appearance before the House of Commons Committee studying Canada-U. S. relations, the Canadian Propane Association (CPA) made it clear that for its members and for the millions of Canadians who depend on propane in their daily lives, the idea of shutting down Enbridge Line 5 is a non-starter.

In her testimony to the committee on Thursday, March 18, Nancy Borden, CPA Board Chair and owner of Vancouver Island Propane Services in Victoria, B.C. noted that, "Any prolonged disruption of Line 5 would have severe and lasting consequences on the supply of propane to Ontario, Québec and Atlantic Canada."

Enbridge Line 5 is the only supply of propane via pipeline into Southern Ontario. It is the feeder pipe into the Sarnia Fractionator, which has over 100,000 barrels of capacity per day. Propane is approximately 70 per cent of that capacity.

Borden pointedly told the committee, "In short, the discontinuation of Line 5 is not an option."

It would take a very long time to replace the volumes transported by the pipeline.

"Considering that 100,000 barrels per day comes out of the Sarnia plant, the logistics and constraints about where those barrels are coming from – whether it be from east Edmonton across the country to the marketplace – when you're talking about a railway that's already at capacity, that's not really an option," said Mark Mundy, CPA board member and Vice-President, Rail & Logistics with NGL Supply Co. Ltd. in Sarnia, ON.

Shawn Vammen, Sr. Vice-President of Superior Gas Liquids in Calgary, AB, who also appeared before the committee, following the meeting added that "We are happy the Canadian government is working to protect the interests of the propane industry and its many customers who rely on propane as an essential service. A disruption to Line 5 puts our ability to service our customers in jeopardy, and at a minimum, will add to the costs to service propane consumers in Eastern Canada."

Dan Kelly, CPA Past Chair and Chief Financial Officer of Dowler-Karn in St. Thomas, ON, told the committee that over 100,000 homes in Ontario, Québec and Atlantic Canada depend on propane as their primary home energy source – to heat their homes and cook their meals. "This represents approximately half a million Canadians who rely on propane in their daily lives."

In addition, Kelly noted that propane is critical to institutions such as hospitals, schools, businesses, for agriculture, and especially in Indigenous, rural, and remote communities who far too often must rely on diesel.

"Canada's propane industry has much to offer Canadians as a safer, greener and more accessible energy option," said Kelly. "Without Line 5, providing Canadians with this critical source of energy will be much more difficult."

The CPA also told the committee that they were heartened to see the unanimity among the politicians who have joined countless Canadian voices in supporting Line 5.

About the Canadian Propane Association: With over 400 members, the Canadian Propane Association (CPA) is the national association for a growing, multi-billion-dollar industry that impacts the livelihood of tens of thousands of Canadians. Our mission is to promote a safe and thriving propane industry that plays a vital role in Canada's energy sector. To achieve this, we champion propane and the propane industry in Canada and facilitate best practices, safety and a favourable business environment through advocacy, training, and emergency response.

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