



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Environmental Justice Communities Condemn DTE Rate Increase, Line 5 Approval**

*Twin approvals a 'double betrayal,' show MPSC 'values lavish treatment from corporate polluters over the voices of Michiganders'*

On Friday, the Michigan Public Service Commission approved a request on the part of DTE Energy for a rate increase of almost \$368 million over the next year, which will result in higher electric bills for DTE consumers. Additionally, the Commission also approved building a tunnel under the Mackinac Straits for Enbridge Line 5.

### **Statement from Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition co-Executive Director Juan Jhong-Chung:**

Our regulatory system is broken, and our Governor has failed to deliver on her climate and environmental justice promises. The Michigan Public Service Commission, which she appointed, has doubly betrayed working families with both the approval of a costly and unnecessary rate increase and the construction of more fossil fuel infrastructure that critically threatens our water and our way of life. Sadly, this is not a surprising outcome given the commissioners' [close ties](#) with corporations like DTE Energy whom they are supposed to regulate.

This rate increase is unjustifiable and unjust. Michigan has some of the highest electricity rates and least reliable service in the nation. Millions of Michiganders faced four prolonged outages just this year alone, costing thousands of dollars in lost food, medicine, wages and more. Approval of a tunnel for Enbridge Line 5 shows that the Commission is foolishly ignorant of the threat of fossil fuel infrastructure to the largest source of freshwater on earth.

With these decisions, the Michigan Public Service Commission shows they value lavish treatment from corporate polluters over the voices of Michiganders, especially Black, Brown, Indigenous, and poor white communities. Environmental justice communities will continue to

demand accountability from unelected bodies and elected officials who continue to place fossil fuel industry profits over our lives.

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*The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) works to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate policies. We build power and unity within our community, so we all can thrive. [www.michiganej.org](http://www.michiganej.org)*