

# CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JULY 8, 2019

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## HOUSE DEMS CRITICIZE NESSEL'S LINE 5 LAWSUIT

Several House Democrats are asking Attorney General Dana Nessel to halt her efforts and drop the lawsuit to shut down the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline.

The six lawmakers involved were part of the 14 Democrats who voted yes on original legislation to allow a utility tunnel to be built under the Straits of Mackinac.

State Reps. Brian Elder (D-Bay City), Tenisha Yancey (D-Harper Woods), Wendell Byrd (D-Detroit), John Chirkun (D-Roseville), Terry Sabo (D-Muskegon), and Sara Cambensy (D-Marquette), released a joint statement on Thursday and said they are "deeply disappointed" Nessel initiated a lawsuit to end the operation of Line 5 "with no alternative after the issue had been resolved through an appropriate compromise."

The legislators said that the legislation passed in 2018 "solved a problem, through a reasonable compromise, created jobs and actually shut down the existing Line 5," the statement said.

"The attorney general's lawsuit actually guarantees the status quo."

Nessel filed legal action in June seeking the immediate shut down of Line 5 "after reasonable notice" and a permanent decommissioning of the controversial oil and gas pipeline and issued a formal opinion earlier this year.

Enbridge filed legal action to reinstate the 2018 deal after talks with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer fell through.

The Attorney General's office said they plan to continue the legal efforts.

## SUPREME COURT RULES PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION CAN BE PAID WITHOUT NO FAULT

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that a motor vehicle owner does not have to personally buy no fault insurance to be eligible to receive personal injury benefits.

The court's 5-1 decision said that whether a person is entitled to PIP benefits and if they are available, does not "depend on who purchased, obtained, or otherwise procured no-fault insurance. The only relevant inquiry is whether the injured person can establish an accidental bodily injury arising out of the ownership, operation, maintenance or use of a motor vehicle as a motor vehicle."

The state's no fault act, which will be replaced this year with new legislation signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, does not stipulate the way no fault insurance must be maintained, and in fact has no real requirement the insurance actually be purchased or obtained, as Justice Brian Zahra held in *Dye v. Esurance*.

The opinion does not address the large percentage of the state's population without insurance, or the changes the Legislature made to the no fault act.

### **AMASH LEAVES REPUBLICAN PARTY, SET TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT**

U.S. Rep. Justin Amash (R-Cascade Twp.) announced he is leaving the Republican Party last week, and plans to run for reelection as an independent.

Amash made the announcement in an op-ed in the Washington Post on July 4, where he wrote he is "declaring my independence and leaving the Republican Party." His decision was based on his disenchantment with party politics.

Amash confirmed he would be running for reelection as an independent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> House District Race during an interview with Michigan Radio the next day.

Opponents on both sides believe his Independent status will help their parties succeed in the race.

Amash had upset Republicans earlier this year with criticism of President Donald Trump and by declaring that Trump had committed impeachable conduct.

To run as a candidate with no party affiliation, Amash would need to gather at least 3,000 valid signatures from registered voters (and no more than 6,000) by July 16, 2020.

### **MM&A Briefs**

#### **Anti-ICE Graffiti on Capitol Building**

An unknown person spray painted "STOP ICE" on the sandstone base of the Capitol building just after midnight on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The graffiti, deriding the federal U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is being investigated.

A contractor specializing in masonry was called in to assess the damage and is covering the cost to remove it. Any potential suspect faces a charge malicious destruction of property, which can be either a misdemeanor or felony depending on the cost of the damage.

#### **Parker named Deputy State Treasurer**

Joyce Parker has been named the new Michigan Deputy State Treasurer beginning July 15. In the position, Parker will lead finance programs for state and local communities and school districts and oversee property tax.

Parker has served in a variety of positions for numerous local governments including serving as an emergency manager Highland Park School District, the city of Ecorse, and Allen Park. She was previously president of The Municipal Group, and has been the Jackson assistant city manager, township manager for Buena Vista Township, city manager for Inkster and Saginaw, and the Flint community development director.

## Calendar of Important Events

- July 15**      **Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) PAC fundraiser**  
Location: 9 a.m., Deer Run Golf Club, Horton
- Rep. Bradley Slagh (R-Zeeland) fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., New Holland Brewing, Holland
- Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., 1860 Boxwood Lane, East Lansing
- Rep. Andrea Schroeder (R-Independence Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 6 p.m., 4900 Lakeview Drive, Clarkston
- July 16**      **Rep. Jim Ellison (D-Royal Oak) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Fifth Avenue, Royal Oak
- Rep. Ryan Berman (R-Commerce Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Steven Lelli's Inn on the Green, Farmington Hills
- July 17**      **Rep. Abdullah Hammoud (D-Dearborn) Fundraiser**  
Location: 9 a.m., Governor's Room, Karoub Associates, Lansing
- July 18**      **Rep. Julie Brixie (D-Okemos) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Blue Gill Grill, Haslett
- Sen. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., The Palazzo Grande, Shelby Township
- July 19**      **Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5 p.m., World of Beer, Woodhaven
- July 21**      **Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) Fundraiser**  
Location: 3 p.m., 21031 Eastfarm Lane Court, Farmington Hills
- July 23**      **Rep. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) Fundraiser**  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing
- July 24**      **Rep. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (D-Southfield) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Shields Pizza, 25101 Telegraph Road, Southfield
- July 27**      **Rep. Jim Haadsma (D-Battle Creek) Fundraiser**  
Location: 12 p.m., 1651 Monroe Beach, Battle Creek