

February 4, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of our many millions of members and supporters, we write to respectfully urge your Administration not to approve TransCanada's Presidential Permit application for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Project (Keystone XL). This dangerous and expensive pipeline would double our reliance on Canada's high carbon and destructive tar sands oil and send it for the first time in significant volumes to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. We understand that you will be meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper today and expect the subject of Keystone XL to be raised in your conversation.

We appreciate your words and actions to move America toward a clean energy economy that will provide sustainable jobs and protect Americans from air and water pollution. And we strongly believe that approval of the permit for Keystone XL would put these priorities in jeopardy.

When filled to capacity, Keystone XL would import up to 900,000 barrels per day of the world's dirtiest form of oil and open a new economic drain to send more of our money to Canada. The pipeline would drive further destruction of Canada's boreal forest, bring the threat of dangerous oil spills through America's heartland, exacerbate air quality problems in communities surrounding the refineries that the pipeline would service, and significantly increase the carbon intensity of U.S. transportation fuel, which would undercut the emissions reductions achieved by increasing U.S. automobile efficiency.

Keystone XL would transport some of the most corrosive and acidic oil in the world through sensitive lands and aquifers that provide drinking water and a way of life for millions. Already, TransCanada is using eminent domain against farmers and landowners who do not want a dangerous pipeline on their own properties. It's time to stop giving a free pass to oil companies to increase profits at the expense of Americans. TransCanada's own analysis even says the "strategy [with Keystone XL] would be intended to raise the price" of Canadian oil, especially in the Midwest, to increase oil company profits.

America does not need this dangerous and expensive pipeline. We can meet our energy needs without putting our land, water and air at risk, by increasing our automobile efficiency standards, expanding mass transit, and switching to electric vehicles that are powered by clean, renewable forms of energy. America's national interest is best served by promoting solutions that will end our oil dependence, including ending our dependence on expensive oil from Canada's dirty tar sands.

There has never been a clearer imperative to break America's dependence on oil. Researchers continue to confirm the overwhelming scientific evidence on climate change, underscoring the urgency for U.S.

leadership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And over the last year, we have seen the largest oil spill in our nation's history in the Gulf of Mexico and one of the largest oil pipeline spills in Michigan's Kalamazoo River. Enbridge, the company whose pipeline leaked tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River, is now denying liability for damages from the spill. Based on this track record, we simply do not trust that the oil industry cares about America's national interest.

For all these reasons, people from across the political spectrum and of all walks of life are coming together to oppose this pipeline. While some Americans are most concerned with a foreign company using eminent domain or a "strategy" to increase oil prices, others are concerned about the safety and water issues. And still others fear the devastating impact this project could have on our move toward a clean energy economy.

When you meet with Prime Minister Harper, we urge you to discuss clean energy and energy efficiency opportunities for North America, and to make it clear that the U.S. will not compromise its clean energy future by increasing its dependency on Canada's dirty tar sands oil.

Sincerely,

Arizona Wildlife Federation
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Audubon Nebraska
Audubon of Florida
Bee Rock Land, LLC
Bold Nebraska
CADatonic
Cahaba Riverkeeper
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Energy Matters
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
City Wildlife, Inc.
Clean Water Action
Coalition for Clean Air
Colorado Wildlife Federation
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Conservation Law Foundation
Corporate Ethics International
Dakota Rural Action
Democracia, Inc.
Earthjustice
Evangelical Environmental Network
Environment America
Environment Maryland

Environment Missouri
Environment Montana
Environment New Jersey
Environment Northeast (ENE)
Environment Texas
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Fisher-Bassett Civic Block Club
Fresh Energy
Friends of the Earth
Global Community Monitor
Greenpeace USA
Guardians of the Good Life
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Interfaith Power & Light
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
League of Conservation Voters
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
NC Conservation Network
NC League of Conservation Voters
Nebraska Chapter of 350.org
Nebraska Environmental Action Coalition
Nebraska Green Party
Nebraska League of Conservation Voters
Nebraska Sierra Club
Nebraska Wildlife Federation
Nebraskans for Peace
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
New York Public Interest Research Group
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
Northern Rockies Rising Tide
oakridge CC
Pineywoods Sierra Group
PODER
Polaris Institute
Progressive Omaha
Public Citizen, Inc.

Rainforest Action Network
Safe Climate Campaign
Sierra Club
Simmons College Alumna
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
STOP - Stop Tarsands Oil Pipelines
Sun Creek Farm
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.E.J.A.S.)
The Natural Step Monona
UK Tar Sands Network
Union of Concerned Scientists
University of Nebraska Lincoln Progressive Student Coalition
UNL-Nebraskans for Peace
US Climate Action Network
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Western Nebraska Resources Council
Western Organization of Resource Councils