

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 19, 2011

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

Dear Mr. President,

We write today to express our support that a Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline Project is in America's national interest. This is based on the fact that the Keystone XL Pipeline will inject \$20 billion of private sector investment into the American economy, create 20,000 direct jobs, spur the creation of 118,000 spin-off jobs, pay out \$5 billion in taxes to local counties over the project's lifetime, bolster America's energy security and strengthen our national security. The project, which has bipartisan support in Congress, has also earned the support of local government officials in the states along the pipeline's route, labor unions, landowners, veterans' groups, Hispanic groups, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, energy policy experts, national security experts, editorial boards and Americans desperate to see economic growth take hold once again in our country.

The Keystone XL Pipeline project is the subject of an exhaustive three-year, multi-agency review process, which the Department of State has led. This thorough and fair review has included an examination of the pipeline's impact on America's economy, environment, energy supply, national security, safety and routing. Among the agencies that the Department of State has coordinated and consulted with are the Departments of Defense, Justice, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, Energy, Homeland Security, and Environmental Protection. The Department of State has also held more than 25 meetings with interested groups – both supporting and opposing the project. It has also obtained input from interested citizens across the country during the Environmental Impact Statement comment periods and the public meetings held throughout the country over the last few weeks.

The Department of State's Final Environmental Impact Statement reaffirmed the findings of the two previous environmental impact statements, namely, that the Keystone XL Pipeline will have *no significant impact* on the environment. It should be noted that as a result of the comprehensive review process, the Keystone XL Pipeline will be subject to heightened safety measures. Since the pipeline is the subject of a Project Labor Agreement with four international unions, it will be constructed and maintained by the best-trained workforce in the world. We are confident that the Department of State's review process and the project operator's commitment to employing well-trained union workers will yield the most appropriately routed, safest and environmentally sound pipeline in our nation.

Over the last few weeks, a constant refrain was heard from our fellow citizens attending the public hearings held in the states along the pipeline's route: "*We need the jobs, it's that simple.*"

With job growth an ongoing struggle for our country, the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline represents a *true shovel-ready project* that would directly create 20,000 high-quality **domestic** manufacturing and construction jobs for Americans who are desperately seeking employment. The project would also create an additional 118,000 spin-off jobs. As a speaker at one the public hearings sponsored by the Department of State said:

*"Each day that workers go without a job we lose our homes, we go without healthcare for our families, and we go without proper care for our children. Without these jobs we also stop spending and supporting the economy. With good paying jobs we buy groceries, clothes, cars, houses and stimulate the economic engine that drives America. We proudly pay our taxes that build and maintain our infrastructure, schools, and social programs. In light of the current bleak economic situation, America simply can't afford not to approve the Keystone XL and put tens of thousands of Americans back to work."* - Reno Hammond, Business Manager for the Southwest Laborers' District Council (Wilsoncountynews.com., 9/28/11)

We could not state it better ourselves.

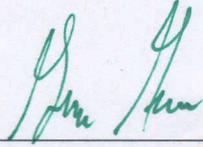
Finally, not only would the Keystone XL Pipeline bolster America's economy, but it also would help strengthen our country's energy and national security by importing stable, secure oil from our friendly neighbor Canada and allowing our nation to decrease imports of higher priced "conflict oil" from regions such as the Middle East and Venezuela, which are not friendly to the United States and do not share our values. We respectfully note that this benefit of the Keystone XL Pipeline fits squarely within the parameters of the energy security speech you gave on March 30, 2011, when you noted:

*"... we're still going to have to import some oil. It will remain an important part of our energy portfolio for quite some time, until we've gotten alternative energy strategies fully in force. And when it comes to the oil we import from other nations, obviously we've got to look at neighbors like Canada and Mexico that are stable and steady and reliable sources."*

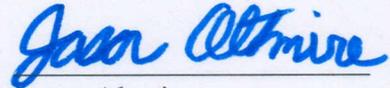
Simply stated Mr. President, America needs the Keystone XL Pipeline. It is in our national interest to have a Presidential Permit issued for Keystone XL as soon as possible. America truly cannot afford to say "no" to this privately funded, \$20 billion, jobs-creating infrastructure project, which would bolster our economic, energy and national security. To that end, we respectfully urge you to ensure that the Presidential Permit is issued for Keystone XL.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

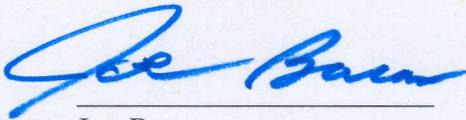
Sincerely,



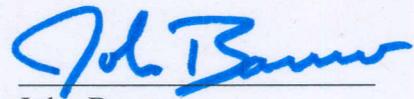
Gene Green  
Member of Congress



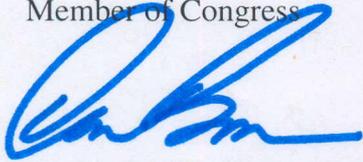
Jason Altmire  
Member of Congress



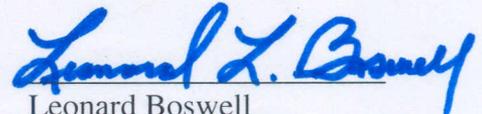
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress



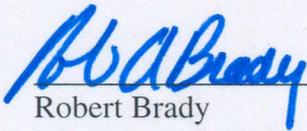
John Barrow  
Member of Congress



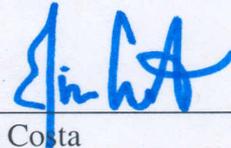
Dan Boren  
Member of Congress



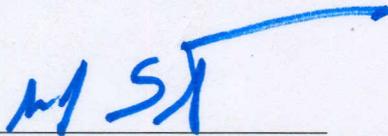
Leonard Boswell  
Member of Congress



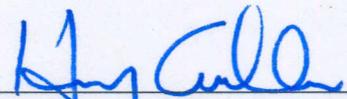
Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



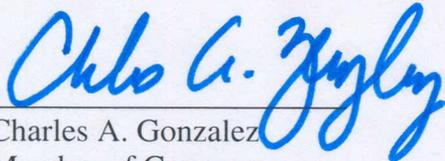
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



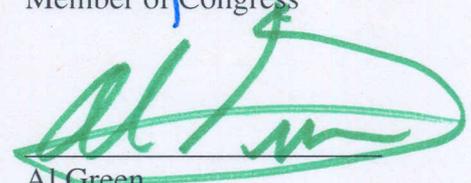
Mark Critz  
Member of Congress



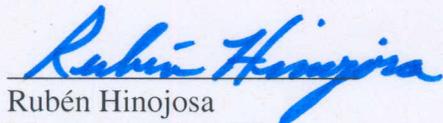
Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



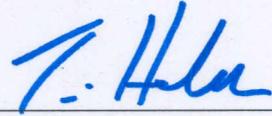
Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



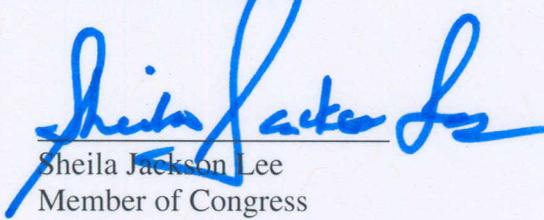
Al Green  
Member of Congress



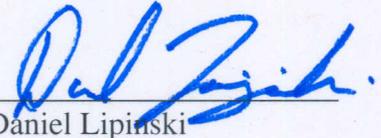
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



Tim Holden  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



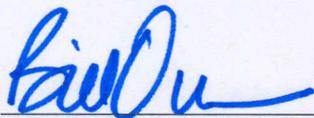
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



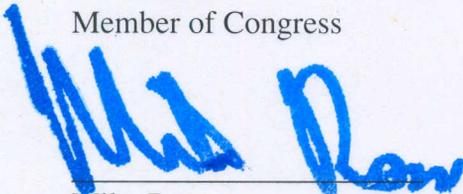
Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



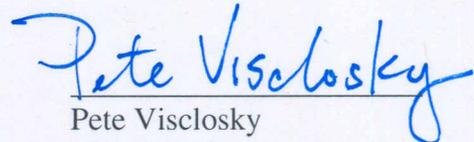
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress



Pete Visclosky  
Member of Congress