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Building and Construction Trades Department

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June 21, 2011

Chairman Fred Upton
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, and our 13 affiliated unions, I am writing to express our strong support for the Keystone XL Pipeline. This pipeline would ensure that oil from the Canadian Tar Sands is able to reach the U.S. market, and enhance American energy security rather than be diverted to Asian markets. Without access to this oil, American consumers will be forced to purchase dirtier oil from less friendly nations.

Most importantly to the skilled crafts professionals in the Building Trades is the overwhelmingly positive effect the Keystone XL Pipeline will have on U.S. employment. It is estimated that this \$7 billion project will directly create 20,000 jobs, and generate an additional \$20 billion in economic activity. Furthermore, a Project Labor Agreement is in place for this project. PLAs are widely used in the private sector for projects of this magnitude and ensure that a highly-skilled workforce is available for the duration of the project and that the project is completed efficiently and on-time all the while promoting investments in workforce development and safety.

It is our hope that HR 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act, will encourage President Obama to issue a permit for this needed project as expeditiously as possible. We ask for your support of HR 1938 and the Keystone XL Pipeline, and the tens of thousands of American jobs that depend on its timely permitting.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mark H. Ayers
President