

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
U.S. Department of State  
Keystone XL EIS Project  
P.O. Box 96503-98500  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6503

Re: Final Environment Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Pipeline Project

Dear Secretary Clinton:

On behalf of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Nebraska’s largest statewide business association – I want to take this opportunity to comment on the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and reiterate our organization’s support for the project.

When the State Department’s final EIS was released in late August, we noted that your agency found that the proposed pipeline would pose “no significant impacts to most resources” along its route across six states, including Nebraska. We also noted the report’s findings that risks associated with the pipeline would be low as long as TransCanada complied with federal law and followed recommended safeguards. TransCanada has a solid record of pipeline safety, and we have every reason to believe that this respected company will go above and beyond their obligations to construct and operate this pipeline in the safest manner possible.

Clearly, one of the Nebraska Chamber’s top priorities is the protection of the state’s groundwater resources. We paid particular attention to the EIS’ conclusion that alternatives to the pipeline would be unworkable or in some cases would result in greater environmental damage.

We believe that the State Department’s review of the proposed project is based on sound science and that Nebraska has been treated fairly throughout the process. We have confidence in the thorough review conducted by the officials at the Department of State and other federal agencies.

The Nebraska Chamber recognizes the tremendous economic benefits that the Keystone XL would bring to Nebraska, including an estimated \$11.3 million in tax receipts during construction and more than \$150 million in new property tax revenue. Our association also recognizes the tremendous importance of this project for the rest of the nation: More than 700,000 barrels of oil sent daily to the United States; the creation of 20,000 U.S. manufacturing and construction jobs; and more than \$5.2 billion in tax revenue to the Keystone XL corridor states.

Considering these benefits, coupled with the findings of the final EIS, it remains our belief that the many benefits of the Keystone XL pipeline exceedingly outweigh the minimal environmental risks. We believe that this project is in the best interest of our nation and our state.

The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry continues to strongly support the Keystone XL project. We respectfully request that the Department of State expeditiously approve the project and grant TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary for construction to begin.

Sincerely,



Barry L. Kennedy  
President