



NORTH DAKOTA
PETROLEUM
COUNCIL

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July 1, 2015

Chris Nelson, Chairperson
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner
Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: North Dakota Petroleum Council support for Keystone XL Pipeline

The North Dakota Petroleum Council supports the Keystone XL pipeline and urges you to you to accept the certification of the permit Issued in 2010 to construct the Keystone XL Pipeline. After seven years and numerous environmental reviews, we have confidence that the pipeline is absolutely in our nation's best interest. The review of this project by both state and federal regulators has been thorough, public and encompassing, and has yielded extraordinarily positive results. It is time to move the project forward!

North America is in the midst of an energy renaissance. Yet, the United States lacks sufficient energy infrastructure to fully realize the benefits of this remarkable surge in oil production. Nowhere are the effects of this lack of infrastructure more apparent than here in North Dakota. As you know, Keystone XL is slated to move oil from Bakken producers as well as oil from Canada. By supporting domestic production and imports from our Canadian ally instead of politically unstable countries, we will continue to make great strides towards energy security.

Time and time again, pipelines have proved to be the safest and most efficient method to transport crude, and are greatly preferred over by truck or railway. The federal government has consistently found that the project will be safe and that groundwater is protected, even in the event of a release from the pipeline. The studies have found that a release has been made less likely by additional safety requirements and regulation to which this project has voluntarily submitted. We have confidence that TransCanada will be a good steward of the land and the Keystone XL will be constructed using industry best practices to meet or exceed all existing pipeline regulatory standards.

The Keystone XL pipeline will be a valuable tool in strengthening our economy, national security, and energy security. We respectfully request you accept the certification of the permit issued in 2010 to construct the Keystone XL Pipeline. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ron Ness, President
North Dakota Petroleum Council