

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2702

July 6, 2016

Christie Murray
Director of Program Development
Office of Pipeline Safety
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Director Murray,

I am writing to express my concern about the lack of independent soil and water testing being conducted in Nebraska along the Keystone Pipeline. I believe it is important that we work together in order to fully protect the safety and public health of landowners and workers in Nebraska and along all sections of the pipeline.

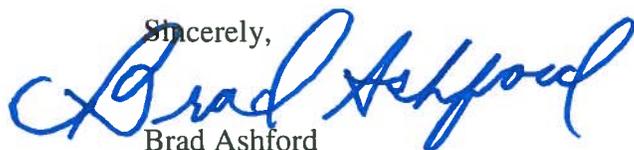
It is my understanding that TransCanada is digging up soil and replacing pipe along the Keystone 1 pipeline in six counties in Nebraska. During this process, they have been issued two corrective action orders from PHMSA because of inadequate pipe and weld integrity.

Several Nebraskans have also expressed concerns to me the need for independent testing and I support this request. I have heard directly from Jane Kleeb, Founder of Bold Nebraska; Sue Martin, President of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO; Ron Kaminiski, Members of the Laborer's Local 1140; and Mary Kay Pence, regional CWA Representative.

I respectfully request that PHMSA conduct an independent test of the soil and water where TransCanada is replacing pipe in Nebraska Counties. While I fully understand TransCanada may want to also conduct their own tests, and I strongly encourage that an independent analysis takes place in order to ensure the integrity of the results.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress