

SY CAKER #3



Keystone XL Hearing: Pierre, South Dakota

Docket Number: HP14-001

July 6th, 2015

Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce

Andy Peterson, President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce

2000 Schafer St.
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Commissioners, my name is Andy Peterson, and I am the President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. We represent nearly 1,100 businesses across the state of North Dakota and we are the voice of North Dakota Business.

We are here today to offer public comment on the construction permit certification for the South Dakota portion of the Keystone XL pipeline and to reiterate the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce's strong support for the project to proceed.

I'm proud to be from North Dakota, our energy production has helped us become No. 1 in economic growth, in the past decade, even amidst some uncertain economic times.

The Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce believes the development of North American energy, like North Dakota oil and Canadian oil sands, clearly help our state and national economy, and create thousands of jobs.

One of the issues with oil development is transportation to refineries. In addition to the many pipelines that currently exist throughout North Dakota, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline will run through eastern Montana and go into South Dakota very close to our southwestern border. This pipeline construction and expansion will, in sum, create thousands of jobs, and many of which could be held by North and South Dakotans. Furthermore, local businesses will see more customers as more workers and families move into the region.

Along with these pipeline construction jobs, it's expected that a Keystone XL connection to North Dakota's Bakken supply will be constructed. With this connection, we would be able to move more oil safer and faster. As a result, oil-related employment would increase, and it wouldn't stop there. A boom like that would pump money into the local economies across the region. More people working here means more people spending money here. Businesses, jobs, and our region would continue to grow and benefit. Hundreds of indirect jobs in retail, hospitality and restaurants would be created. When businesses do well, our economy does well and everyone's lives improve. That's what this is really about.

The Keystone XL pipeline has the potential to change our state even more for the better. It opens the door to new opportunities that allow our state and us, as individuals, to flourish. Everyone in the state has been touched by our energy development.

Champions **(for)** Business

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The reality is, the oil from the Bakken and from Canada will make it to market, with the Keystone XL it will make it to market in the safest most efficient manner. Right now oil is transported by rail and by trucks; these methods serve a purpose, but are not as safe or as efficient as pipelines.

Considering all these issues, including the findings of the final Environmental Impact Statement, it remains our belief that the many benefits of the Keystone XL pipeline are greater than the minimal environmental risks. We believe this project is very much in the best interest of our region and nation.

The real benefit, however, is the pipeline's ability to help meet the region's critical and changing energy demands. The Keystone XL will serve as a long-term link, transporting supply of domestic energy to market efficiently and safely, at a low cost to the producer, which in turn will keep costs low for the consumers. This is vital to our regions ability to continue to capitalize on our vast crude resources in a manner that benefits both our local economy and the nation as a whole. We need more pipeline capacity, and it's needed now.

The Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce continues our support of the Keystone XL pipeline expansion project. It is our hope that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission expeditiously approves construction permit certification for this project and allows our region's economy to grow.