

AMERICA'S ENERGY FORUM

March 4, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

As proud veterans of the United States of America, we respectfully request that you seize the power vested in the Department of State to help make America a more secure nation by expeditiously issuing a final environmental impact statement for the Keystone XL Pipeline project. While we understand that the federal government seeks to develop a balanced policy to address our nation's energy needs and the environmental challenges we face, the recent efforts of the project's opponents to block the Keystone XL Pipeline only undermine this goal, as well as the very important goals related to strengthening our national security. Having dedicated our lives to protecting and serving this great country, we feel it is incumbent upon us to reinforce how vital the Keystone XL Pipeline is to reducing America's dependence on oil from less stable regions of the world.

Earlier this month, a publicly released Department of Energy report concluded that the Keystone XL Pipeline would help reduce U.S. imports of foreign oil from sources outside of North America. In addition, the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations has found that "[p]erhaps the greatest impact of expanded oil sands exploitation would be a diversion of revenues away from adversarial governments."

Today, the United States consumes 15 million barrels of oil per day and imports more than 9 million. Despite a laudable focus on renewable energy, the reality is that America is going to need all energy sources – including oil and natural gas – for decades to come. It is also a reality that our reliance on foreign sources of oil can make our economic and energy security vulnerable to volatile and unfriendly governments with the potential to leverage their resources in a manner that threatens the U.S. economy and the ability of our military to protect our country. One only needs to consider the recent events unfolding in the Middle East to understand the vulnerabilities our nation faces and the need for a more domestic, secure supply of oil from a friendly and reliable trading partner such as Canada.

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A viable solution to this vexing problem stands at the ready: the Keystone XL Pipeline. The Pipeline will help ensure that Americans have oil when we need it, now and in the future. Canada's oil sands reserves are the second largest proven oil reserves on earth. As such, Canada can become a secure source of energy for our future. But this won't happen without the support of our government to facilitate the expansion of trade with Canada for this energy resource by approving the Keystone XL pipeline project.

While we applaud the State Department for undertaking a thorough review of the Keystone XL Pipeline project over the last two years and consulting more than 10 federal agencies, it is critical that a final environmental impact statement be issued as soon as possible so the United States can realize the benefits of reducing its dependence on oil from less stable regions of the world. Knowing your long-standing commitment to help move America toward a more secure future, we trust that you will seize the opportunity to take favorable action with respect to the Keystone XL Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter to the citizens of our great nation, including the men and women in uniform protecting our country around the world.

Sincerely,

Admiral T. Joseph Lopez, US Navy (Ret.), Powellton, WV
Lieutenant General Brett M. Dula, USAF (Ret.), Austin, TX
Vice Admiral Diego Hernandez, US Navy (Ret.), Miami Lakes, FL
Lieutenant General George D. Miller, USAF (Ret.) South Natick, MA
Major General Matthew P. Caulfield, USMC (Ret.), New York, NY
Major General Drennan A. Clark, B.S., M.S., J.D., USAF (Ret.), Reno, NV
Major General Ken Hagemann, USAF, (Ret.), Aurora, CO
Major General John F. Phillips, USAF (Ret.), Fairfax, VA
Major General Robert L. Sentman, US Army (Ret.), Tiffin, IA
Major General Darwin H. Simpson, US Army (Ret.), Spartanburg, SC
Major General Stanhope S. Spears, US Army (Ret.), Columbia, SC
Major General Joseph L. Thompson, US Army (Ret.), St. Louis, MO
Major General Randall L. West, USMC (Ret.), Washington, D.C.
Brigadier General Russell A. Eggers, US Army (Ret.), Des Moines, IA
Brigadier General Harvey M. Haakenson, US Army (Ret.), Bismarck, ND
Brigadier General Lawrence A. Mitchell, USAF (Ret.), Mineral, VA
Brigadier General Maurice H. Phillips, US Army (Ret.), Newton, IA

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Colonel Weldee A. Baetsch, US Army (Ret.), Bismarck, ND
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Colonel Keith C. Magnusson, US Army (Ret.), Bismarck, ND
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Master Sergeant Jerry E. Lawrence, USAF (Ret.), Bellevue, NE
Master Sergeant Norman Siedentop, USMC (Ret.), Wilmington, NC
Master Sergeant Maurice Taylor, US Army (Ret.), Arkansas
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Mr. George Cunkelman, Veteran, US Army, Johnstown, PA
Mr. David W. Demmy, Sr., Veteran, US Army, Dillsburg, PA
Mr. Randall Driscoll, Veteran, US Army (Ret.), Laguna Niguel, CA
Mr. George Edwards, Veteran, US Army, Smyrna, TN

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Ms. Betty Geigla, Veteran, US Navy, Billings, MT

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Mr. Brian Nieves, Veteran, US Navy, Washington, MO

Mr. Ron O'Connor, Veteran, US Army, Belleville, IL

Mr. Mike Parson, Veteran, US Army, Bolivar, MO

Mr. Michael J. Stevko, Veteran, US Navy, Chicago, IL

Mr. Rick Stream, Veteran, US Navy, St. Louis, MO

Mr. Jeremy Winfield, Veteran, US Navy, Chillicothe, OH