



September 29, 2011

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

By Email: keystonexl-nid@cardno.com

RE: National Interest Determination – Keystone XL Pipeline

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We write to you today regarding the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline project. Please make these comments part of the public record.

Since 1942, the New England Fuel Institute has represented the home heating industry in the New England region. Today, NEFI represents approximately 1,200 home heating fuel retailers (including heating oil, Bioheat®, kerosene and propane) and related services companies, most of which are small, multi-generational family owned- and operated-businesses. These companies believe that domestic energy production is essential to national energy security and stability.

We are pleased to inform you that the home heating oil industry is aggressively transitioning to a cleaner, ultra-low sulfur fuel that will utilize cutting edge efficiency technologies and renewable energy sources such as sustainable biofuels in order to dramatically reduce petroleum consumption. The result will be a next-generation home heating product that is both responsive to consumer needs and mindful of environmental and national security concerns.

As we transition to this new product, consumers, businesses and our broader economy will continue to be dependent on affordable domestic energy derived from fossil fuels. Therefore, it is vital that our abundant energy resources be fully utilized and that we work with our North American allies in pursuing this goal. Without question, the United States needs to become less reliant on energy from unstable parts of the world and work with its neighbors to achieve greater energy independence, long-term price stability, economic revitalization and job growth.

NEFI urges your support for the Keystone XL Pipeline and we urge you to expeditiously grant the Presidential Permit to TransCanada required for construction of this important project. According to experts, the pipeline will provide more than 700,000 barrels per day of North American crude oil from the Dakotas, Montana, Oklahoma and Canada to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast. The pipeline is also expected to create nearly 20,000 U.S. manufacturing and construction jobs and many more thousands in the U.S. energy industry, and provide more than \$5.2 billion in tax revenue to the Keystone XL corridor states.

We believe that the Department of State has thoroughly analyzed the project's environmental impact and that the Final EIS properly concludes that there are no substantial environmental concerns that should prohibit this project from moving forward. We have confidence that Keystone XL pipeline will be constructed using industry best practices and will meet or exceed all existing pipeline regulatory standards.

As American businesses and homeowners continue to struggle with increasingly volatile and unpredictable energy prices, we believe that it is essential for the administration to acknowledge the need for a robust national energy policy that includes all North American energy resources in order to bridge our economy to the "clean and green" fuels of the future that we so desperately need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael C. Trunzo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael C. Trunzo, President & CEO
The New England Fuel Institute

cc: All NEFI Members