



**New England Fuel Institute**

**NEW ENGLAND FUEL INSTITUTE**

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July 18, 2012

The Honorable  
Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
OES/ENV Room 2657  
Washington, DC 20520

**RE: Comments on Presidential Permit Application for Keystone XL**

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the New England Fuel Institute (NEFI) in support of TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. NEFI represents small business heating oil dealers who deliver home heating fuel to residential and commercial customers throughout the six state New England region and beyond. NEFI believes that a reliable and sustainable source of crude oil for the U.S. market is critical for stable and predictable prices for the millions of customers who rely on heating oil to warm their homes. Keystone XL will be critical to improving American energy security, boosting our economy and reducing the cost of home heating fuel.

The Keystone XL pipeline has undergone one of the most thorough environmental assessments ever conducted. The State Department, after concluding a three-year National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, affirmed in its Final Environmental Impact Statement in August 2011 that the project would not pose any significant impact to the environment. Moreover, the State Department itself has noted that TransCanada agreed to an additional 57 safety requirements, which will make this pipeline the safest ever constructed and operated in the United States. NEFI believes these safeguards are sufficient to ensure protection of the environment throughout the length of the pipeline.

As you know, the State Department is currently reevaluating the environmental impact of the pipeline. NEFI urges you to examine only those new issues that are associated with the proposed re-routing around sensitive environmental areas located in Nebraska. The full range of environmental impacts of the pipeline has been thoroughly evaluated previously, and no reason exists to expand the scope of the next NEPA review to include other issues not associated with proposed re-routing. A full round of study will only be duplicative and unnecessarily slow the State Department's final determination on the pipeline. With the growing instability in world crude markets, those that depend on affordable petroleum products to heat their home, run their machinery and power their vehicles cannot afford unnecessary delays.

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**Keystone XL Pipeline**

Experts agree that the XL Pipeline project will drive incredible economic growth in the United States. The pipeline is expected to create nearly 20,000 manufacturing and construction jobs in the United States as well as provide billions of dollars in property tax revenue to Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Furthermore, all American consumers, especially those who are dependant on home heating oil will benefit from a greater supply of stable, affordable energy.

NEFI believes that by supporting oil imports from our ally Canada instead of politically unstable countries, we will strengthen both our national and energy security. Access to affordable, stable supplies of petroleum, including home heating oil remains one of the most vital components for a growing economy. However, the uncertainty over long-term supplies is quickly becoming a critical issue that the United States must confront in order to stabilize energy prices moving into the future. With global demand steadily rising and political instability spreading throughout oil-exporting nations, the United States must permit Keystone XL as a means to boost our energy security and ensure adequate supplies for American consumers.

In closing, NEFI believes that construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is in the best interest of all Americans and essential to keep heating oil affordable for the many that depend on it to heat their homes. We respectfully request that the Department of State expeditiously review the new route through Nebraska, utilize the existing environmental analysis from the project's Final EIS, and ultimately grant TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary to begin building the pipeline.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Michael C. Trunzo  
President and CEO, New England Fuel Institute