

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR JIM SMITH

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COMMITTEES

Business and Labor
Natural Resources
Urban Affairs

May 25, 2011

The Honorable Lee Terry
District 2
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Terry:

Thank you for taking the position that the State Department needs to make a decision with respect to the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline sooner rather than later. The State Department has been aware of TransCanada's wish to construct the pipeline for over two-and-half years and I can see no reason to further delay its decision.

I have seen the extensive environmental studies and the development plans that have gone into this project and I appreciate you considering this issue in a rational manner and without getting caught up in the hysteria. While I understand the initial concern with locating the pipeline over the Ogallala Aquifer, I am of the opinion TransCanada has a more than adequate safety and remediation plan.

The jobs that will be created due to this project are incredibly important to Nebraska, particularly to the economic stability of the western part of the state. Additionally, in order to remain globally competitive it is imperative that we continue to support the utilization of our natural resources in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Again, I appreciate your efforts with respect to this issue and of course, I appreciate the all the work you do for Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Smith".

Jim Smith
District #14
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509