

WASHINGTON-

Today, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed Congressman Lee Terry's North American Made Energy Security (NAMES) Act (H.R. 1938) by a bipartisan vote of 33 to 13. The bill requires the Secretary of Energy to speed the analysis and decision process regarding the construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline.

This pipeline has been the subject of 998 days of consideration and a coordinated review by more than a dozen federal agencies. All other cross-border pipelines which have received Presidential Permits have taken between 18 and 24 months..

Earlier this week, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the U.S. and Canada wrote the committee urging the passage of the bill. The letter pointed out the project will directly create 20,000 high-wage jobs and generate \$6.5 billion in income for workers.

"Each day we delay, we are becoming more and more reliant on foreign sources of oil. Earlier today, the Administration announced it was tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve due to unrest in foreign nations. I find it frustrating that it would seem our U.S. energy policy is to get heavy crude from Venezuela – hardly a friendly nation – while continually delaying heavy oil from our North American neighbor.

"Our bill is simple. Set a schedule, coordinate that schedule, and execute a decision process. Further delays could cost our nation in terms of job creation and energy security. We cannot afford any more delay," Terry said.