

Bill would speed pipeline decision

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A bid to speed up a decision on a controversial oil pipeline is on its way to the full U.S. House of Representatives.

A House committee advanced a bill by Republican Rep. Lee Terry of Omaha that would require President Barack Obama to grant or deny a permit for the Keystone XL project by Nov. 1. The U.S. State Department, which has the jurisdiction over the pipeline because it crosses international borders, has talked of a decision by year's end.

Terry's deadline proposal has a good chance of passing the full House, with Republican support. However, its chances could diminish in the Democratic-controlled Senate, where it may or may not come up for a vote.

Terry argued before the House Energy and Commerce Committee — of which he is a member — that after three years of waiting, it was time to make a decision on the pipeline.

He also argued that the project would create 20,000 jobs and help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

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