State of play: Republicans on both sides of Capitol Hill are taking steps this week to impose a political price on the White House for **delaying a final decision** on the proposed Keystone XL oil sands pipeline until after the 2012 election.

Senate GOP leadership on Wednesday promoted new legislation that would force a much faster decision on TransCanada Corp.'s proposed $7 billion Alberta-to-Texas pipeline.

They argue the bill (which E2 covered **here** and **here**) will help create jobs quickly, and alleged the recent administration delay was a political decision to appease green groups.

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