WASHINGTON - House Republicans Friday were considering tying a plan to speed up approval of the Keystone XL pipeline to a broader measure that would extend the payroll tax break that expires Dec. 31.

GOP leaders mulling that approach were hoping the popularity of the proposed 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline among Republican lawmakers would help lure fiscal conservatives to support the payroll tax cut.

The tactic also could give a boost to the pipeline measure, which aims to short-circuit the Obama administration's decision to delay a final verdict on whether to issue a permit for the project until early 2013.

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