

US House Republicans joined their Senate colleagues on Dec. 2 in urging US President Barack Obama to reverse his Nov. 11 decision to delay acting on TransCanada Corp.'s cross-border permit application for the project until after the 2012 elections. Actions included introduction of [legislation](#) that would transfer authority for approving or denying the permit from the US Department of State to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

“Just a few yards from scoring the go-ahead touchdown, the administration called a 14-month timeout,” House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (Mich.) said as the committee’s Energy and Power Subcommittee began a hearing on the proposed system to move more crude oil from Alberta’s oil sands deposits to US Gulf Coast refineries.

“This president had a chance to green light a private-sector project that would immediately create 20,000 high-wage construction jobs, strengthen our nation’s energy security, and create an additional 118,000 spin-off jobs,” Upton maintained. “But he didn’t do it. Instead, he placed election-year politics above jobs and the good of the country.”

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