WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Wednesday he would reject any effort by Republicans to tie speedier approval of the Keystone XL pipeline to extension of the payroll tax cut.

Obama said GOP lawmakers should support extending the tax cut without regard to unrelated policy disputes.

“It shouldn't be held hostage for any other issues that they may be concerned about,” Obama said.

The president was asked about the Canada-to-Texas pipeline after a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

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