

GOP plan would allow rerouting

By Joseph Morton  
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WASHINGTON — A Republican proposal to speed construction of the Keystone XL pipeline would preserve ongoing efforts to route it around Nebraska's environmentally sensitive Sand Hills.

GOP lawmakers have tucked the pipeline hurry-up into a broader piece of legislation that includes extension of a payroll tax cut, saying the country needs the pipeline jobs immediately.

But the measure specifically calls for federal officials to work with the State of Nebraska to reroute the pipeline away from the Sand Hills.

Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb., said the legislation makes clear Nebraska's right to alter the route and gives the state time to do so.

"It gets the pipeline going, creates the jobs, puts us on a path to energy security, but it protects the Nebraska compromise — it writes that into the law," Terry said Monday.

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