Pipeline-tax cut bill passes House

By Joseph Morton

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Legislation to speed approval of the Keystone XL pipeline passed the House on Tuesday as part of a broader package wrapping up many end-of-the-year items, including an extension of the federal payroll tax cut.

The bill was approved 234-193, with 224 Republicans and 10 Democrats voting in favor. The GOP bill would require a decision on the controversial pipeline project within 60 days, while continuing the search for a new route around Nebraska's Sand Hills.

The State Department has suggested that the Republican gambit would not allow enough time to complete legally required reviews of the project and thus would result in no permit being issued.

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