

**OVERNIGHT ENERGY: Obama's Keystone rejection unifies GOP**

By Andrew Restuccia and Ben Geman - 01/18/12 06:22 PM ET

State of play: President Obama's decision to reject the Keystone XL oil pipeline rallied the increasingly divided House Republican caucus going into its yearly retreat.

The GOP, in a unified voice, blasted Obama Wednesday for rejecting the project, arguing he snubbed his nose at a valuable opportunity to create jobs and boost the ailing economy.

Now, House Republicans will travel to Baltimore Thursday for their yearly retreat, where they will likely discuss how best to punish Obama politically for his decision, while at the same reviewing legislative options to reverse it.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) told reporters Wednesday afternoon that the GOP is mulling legislation aimed at ensure the pipeline — which would carry oil sands crude from Alberta, Canada, to refineries on the Gulf Coast — gets built.

While he didn't offer any specifics, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) said Republicans are eyeing legislation authored by Rep. Lee Terry (R-Neb.) that would move a final decision on the Keystone permit from the State Department to the independent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Upton's committee will hold a hearing on Terry's bill on Jan. 25.

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