

Keystone XL: House & Senate Bills to Bypass White House

Sixty-four percent of respondents to a recent United Technologies/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll favor construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, while only 22 percent oppose it.

A Senate bill sponsored by Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) faces long odds and a filibuster, given the fact that backers need 16 more senators from the Democratic side in order for the bill to advance. At this time, 44 Senators - 43 GOP and one Democrat - back the Hoeven legislation, citing Congress' powers under the Commerce Clause and a provision for Nebraskan officials to have as long as they need to find an alternative route for the pipeline. Under Hoeven's bill, the pipeline would be authorized without White House approval and work could begin right away on all parts of the pipeline except the Nebraska portion currently in dispute.

House GOP leaders are supporting legislation sponsored by Rep. Lee Terry (R-Neb.) that would let the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve the pipeline.

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