



MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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March 7, 2014

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Energy Resources, Room 4843
Attn: Keystone XL Public Comments
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

Missouri Farm Bureau Federation supports the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline project and urges the State Department to make a favorable National Interest Determination in order that a Presidential Permit may then be issued. We believe energy security is a national security issue, hence the reason our organization supports an all-inclusive national strategy that promotes domestic exploration, production and use of traditional energy sources like oil, natural gas and coal; research, development, commercialization and utilization of renewable and alternative energy sources; and efficiency and conservation. Energy infrastructure must also be part of the discussion and strategy.

Extreme volatility in energy markets hurts consumers and the economy; propane is the most recent example. Frigid temperatures coupled with other factors caused a significant increase in the demand for propane earlier this year, with supplies reaching their lowest level since 1996. Prices skyrocketed and suppliers were forced to ration product. This has been a financial hardship for hog and poultry farmers and many homeowners—and the tight supply situation will not truly subside until spring arrives. Unfortunately, the pocketbook impacts will be felt for some time.

By the same token, shocks in the oil market affect consumers, businesses and the economy, but to a much greater extent. Energy independence should be our nation's long-term goal to help mitigate extreme shocks. In the meantime, we should look north rather than east to help satisfy our crude oil needs. One of the notable findings in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is that heavy crude demand in the Gulf Coast will be met by imports from Latin America and the Middle East when demand is not filled by Canadian supplies. This should be a significant concern from an energy stability/security standpoint.

In his State of the Union address in January, President Obama stated, "*The all-of-the-above energy strategy I announced a few years ago is working, and today, America is closer to energy independence than we've been in decades.*" By all accounts construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline fits within the Administration's "all-of-the-above" approach to energy policy. We urge the State Department to grant the National Interest Determination without further delay.

Sincerely,

Blake Hurst
President