



Pennington County Board of Commissioners

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February 2, 2021

The Honorable John Thune
246 Founders Park Drive, Suite 102
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Senator Thune,

The Pennington County Board of Commissioners strongly encourage your support for the completion of a critical American infrastructure project: Keystone XL.

By supporting domestic production and importing oil from our ally Canada instead of politically unstable countries, we will strengthen both our national security and energy security. The project will also drive incredible economic growth in the United States. At a time when the U.S. economy is tougher than ever for businesses we feel impassioned to share with you just how vital Keystone XL is to the current and future success our local economy and in the lives of the citizens in South Dakota.

The pipeline will generate more than \$2 billion in U.S. wages and add \$3.4 billion to the U.S. GDP during construction. Literally dozens of struggling small towns along the path will benefit exponentially from the big economic lift that Keystone XL brings with it. Pennington County believes that the Department of State has thoroughly analyzed the project's environmental impact and that the Final EIS properly concludes that there are no substantial environmental concerns that should prohibit this project from moving forward. Keystone XL will be constructed using industry best practices and will meet or exceed all existing pipeline regulatory standards.

The project has also changed significantly since it was conceived. TC Energy has committed to utilize only union labor to build Keystone XL in the United States, resulting in up to 8,000 jobs and \$900 million gross union wages in 2021 alone. As part of this, the company is creating a \$10 million Green Jobs Training Fund to aid union members in a transition to the green economy of the future. Keystone XL has also signed agreements with Indigenous communities to become equity owners in the project and realize transformational long-term economic benefits. This is in addition to the more than \$500 million expected to be spent with Indigenous contractors, businesses and workers during construction.

This project has already experienced far too many unnecessary delays and scrutiny. Further delaying or canceling projects like Keystone XL sends a clear message to American companies working on them: our voice isn't important, and it's not being heard. Please do whatever you can to prevent these jobs from being taken away from your constituents.

We are counting on you to support this project and help deliver the thousands of high-quality and high-paying American jobs as well as millions of dollars in annual property taxes from the project that will directly support our schools, hospitals and first responders at a time when this support is most needed.

Pennington County believes that construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is in the best interest of all Americans, and we strongly urge you to show your support for Keystone XL and help it progress in order to strengthen the future of our country.

Sincerely,
The Pennington County Board of Commissioners



Gary Drewes, Chair

GD/hh

cc: The Honorable Dusty Johnson
The Honorable M. Mike Rounds
The Honorable Kristi Noem