

February 16, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of rural electric cooperatives serving the agricultural and energy-producing regions of the West and Upper Midwest, we write to request your support for American-made energy. Infrastructure such as the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, and other pipelines are sited through several of our cooperative service territories. The pumping stations for these pipelines will be or are already among our largest electrical loads, and have been an important factor in planning for the future of electricity supply in this region. In fact, several cooperatives have already invested in generation, transmission, and other improvements to their systems to serve these loads.

Since President Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act in 1936, electric cooperative members have banded together to proudly serve electricity in a region that provides food and fuel critical to the welfare and security of our nation. The members who own electric cooperatives are the farmers, ranchers, and rural residents who support each other by working together to support responsible energy development which, in turn, supports jobs and economic activity in rural America. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the impacts of low commodity prices and extreme weather events that had already created a struggling farm and rural economy. Just as we are starting to turn a corner on these events, and there is opportunity for continued economic growth, we need your support for the infrastructure to enable this development.

Further, we have made great strides to develop and host a dramatic expansion in renewable energy development. Over the past decade alone, we have added over 1,000 megawatts of wind generation to our portfolio, and have recently made commitments to purchase nearly 300 megawatts from utility-scale solar arrays, all of which are expected to come on-line by 2024 or sooner. Also, as recently announced, the Keystone XL pipeline intends to be net-zero emissions by 2023, and fully powered by renewables by 2030¹. Cooperatives that serve other pipeline infrastructure already do so with a mix of renewables and zero-carbon generation. Finally, pipelines represent a vital transportation link that will safely allow for increased energy supply and reliable delivery of oil to the global market. This infrastructure is necessary to maintain the United States' and Canada's important roles as energy producers in the geopolitical landscape.

We have long supported an “all of the above” energy strategy for the United States, and this pipeline infrastructure will play an integral role in enhancing our nation's energy security, as well as support the investments made by our cooperative members and the economies of rural

¹ <https://www.tcenergy.com/announcements/2021-01-17-keystone-xl-commits-to-become-first-pipelinetobe-fully-powered-by-renewable-energy/>

communities. We respectfully ask that you support the completion and operation of this important infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck ND
Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Malta MT
Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, Great Falls MT
East River Electric Cooperative, Madison SD
Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison SD
McCone Electric Co-op, Inc., Circle MT
NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc., Glasgow MT
Rosebud Electric Cooperative Inc., Gregory SD
Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Rapid City SD
Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Marion SD
Tongue River Electric Cooperative, Inc., Ashland MT
Upper Missouri Power Cooperative, Sidney MT
West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo SD
Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
South Dakota Rural Electric Association

CC:

Senator Jon Tester
Senator Steve Daines
Representative Matt Rosendale
Senator John Hoeven
Senator Kevin Cramer
Representative Kelly Armstrong
Senator John Thune
Senator Mike Rounds
Representative Dusty Johnson