

**Audubon Nebraska • Big Thicket Association • Bold Nebraska
Center for Energy Matters • Center for Rural Affairs • Clean Air & Water, Inc.
Concerned Citizens Against Pollution • Corporate Ethics International
Dakota Resource Council • Dakota Rural Action • Earth Day Network
Environmental Defence Canada • Fresh Energy • Friends of the Earth
Guardians of the Good Life • Indigenous Environmental Network • L.E.A.D. Agency, Inc.
National Wildlife Federation • Natural Resources Defense Council • Nebraska Bioneers
Nebraska Farmers Union • Nebraska Green Party • Nebraska Sierra Club
Oil Change International • Pipeline Safety Trust • Public Citizen Texas
Rainforest Action Network • Sierra Club • South Dakota Young Democrats
Stop Tarsands Oil Pipelines • UK Tar Sands Network
Western Organization of Resource Councils**

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

As you are probably aware, the Department of Transportation (DOT) recently issued a Corrective Action Order (CAO) to TransCanada, finding “that without corrective measures the continued operation of the [Keystone] pipeline would be hazardous to life, property and the environment.” The operation of the Keystone pipeline will be under close scrutiny until pipeline safety regulators have determined that it no longer presents a significant risk to public safety. This order makes it clear that additional technical review is necessary to understand the risks associated with the Keystone and Keystone XL pipelines.

Our groups wrote to you on April 4, 2011 requesting that your Department extend the comment period for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) from 45 days to 120 days and that hearings on the SDEIS be scheduled along the right-of-way. We are writing once again to request that you re-open the comment period on the SDEIS and keep it open until DOT’s Office of Pipeline Safety has determined what actions are necessary to ensure that the Keystone pipelines do not present hazards to public safety.

DOT's Corrective Action Order comes after the Keystone pipeline's twelfth spill in less than a year of operation. The order requires an investigation of the recent spills on the Keystone pipeline as well as any other integrity threatening conditions. Because the Keystone and Keystone XL pipelines are part of a single pipeline system and are similar in both design and operation, DOT's findings are of direct material relevance in your Department's environmental review of Keystone XL.

The history of Keystone has demonstrated that the safety issues with diluted bitumen pipelines have not been fully addressed. The State Department needs to give U.S. pipeline regulators at DOT the time they need to determine why the first Keystone pipeline has had so many problems before moving forward with the Keystone XL. Given these legitimate safety concerns with the pipeline and its proposed route, the public deserves an opportunity to understand and comment based on DOT's findings. The State Department should not fast track the environmental review of Keystone XL until our regulators know how it can be built and operated safely.

Sincerely,

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