

March 31, 2011

Dear President Obama and Secretary Clinton,

We, concerned landowners in the right-of-way of the proposed TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline are writing to voice our unique concerns in regards to this project.

This project would mine oil from Canadian tar sands, build a massive tar sands pipeline slicing down American's heartland, refine the oil in Texas' Gulf Coast refineries and then leave the oil on the market to the highest bidder. The project would raise gas prices in the Midwest and leave landowners and communities at risk if a likely spill occurs without any proven public benefit and only inflated reports with forward-looking information funded by TransCanada.

TransCanada is threatening landowners with ending negotiations and using eminent domain, despite not having the Presidential Permit or many permits required by individual state's agencies before construction can begin. TransCanada considers an agreement obtained through intimidation and threats of eminent domain as a "successful agreement." We believe property owners have a right to use their land as best they see fit and defend their own best interest. If they don't want a dangerous pipeline running through their backyard, then they shouldn't be forced to sell their land to a foreign company, putting their family at risk for a pipeline that presents unaddressed hazards to public safety. In addition, TransCanada is attempting to force landowners to purchase liability insurance for the pipeline TransCanada is operating and earning profit from. TransCanada wants to push costs of the Keystone XL pipeline off on landowners, although landowners will not be benefiting from this pipeline.

TransCanada is not only using deceptive practices to take away our property rights, but is also threatening precious drinking and farming water supplies by using conventional pipeline technology for a highly corrosive and acidic unconventional fossil fuel. The Alberta hazardous liquid pipelines have 16 times as many leaks and ruptures per mile of pipeline from internal corrosion than the U.S. hazardous liquid pipeline system. TransCanada claims they are not responsible for what flows through their pipes. (Enbridge, one of TransCanada's competitors, now claims they aren't responsible for the almost 1 million gallon spill of tar sands oil into a U.S. water supply from their pipeline!) A toxic oil spill would devastate our watersheds, risk our public health and hurt our farming, fishing and tourism economies. This heavy oil would sink in to our water supplies, not float as conventional crude would, making cleanup more difficult. TransCanada does not have the experience necessary to keep landowners and the public safe, nor have they shown any intention to do so. The only other tar sands pipeline operated by TransCanada is the Keystone I pipeline, which began operating in 2010 and has already had seven leaks, showing their lack of experience.

Refining tar sands oil also would triple air pollution in refining communities. The areas where this oil would be refined have already been singled out by the Environmental Protection Agency as communities disproportionately affected by pollution, and allowing this pipeline means even higher rates of cancer and asthma for children living on Texas' Gulf Coast.

Furthermore, in order to achieve the viscosity of normal crude, tar sands oil is heated and combined with dilutants such as natural gas liquid condensate - making it more volatile - and sent through thin walled, high-pressure pipelines. Deficiencies have been found in the first Keystone line's response plan, and Keystone XL emergency response plans have not been released for review by all landowners, communities, and first responders, leaving unanswered questions about local preparedness and safety. This means even more safety risks to the landowners on whose property the pipeline would be built.

If this project goes forward, foreign companies win, and American lives, health, and water supplies lose. The good news is that we can still stop this bad idea before it's too late.

In April of last year, the State Department issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which has since been rated "Category 3-Inadequate" (the lowest possible evaluation) by the Environmental Protection Agency. Thousands of comments from landowners and concerned citizens have flowed into the office of the Department of State, and we want our voices heard.

After the political debate about and the construction of this proposed pipeline ends, we are the ones who must live with tar sands running through our property. Please hear our concerns and protect our families and property. We urge you to issue a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to inform landowners of the **real** risks to our health, safety, and livelihood in this tar sands pipeline.

Sincerely Signed,

Wes James, Big Fork, MT
Karen James, Big Fork, MT
Wade Massar, Circle, MT
Don Gaub, Fallon, MT
Carleen Gaub, Fallon, MT
Don Brown, Fort Peck, MT
Carolyn Rees, Fort Peck, MT
Randy Rees, Fort Peck, MT
Floyd Hopstad, Glasgow, MT
Sandy Barnick, Glendive, MT
Elnor Eaton, Lindsay, MT
Kenneth Liles, Lindsay, MT
Alan Kent Liles, Lindsay, MT
Christie Liles, Lindsay, MT
Tom Reeves, Glendive, MT
Tim Hess, Terry, MT
Darrell Garoutte, Wolf Point, MT
Chad Taylor, Wolf Point, MT

Paul F Seamans, Draper, SD
Roger Weiss, Faith, SD
Nina Vansickel, Opal, SD
Doug Jensen, Prairie City, SD
Lee Fisher, Winner, SD
Dianne Fisher, Winner, SD
John Harter, Winner, SD

Pat Karo, Atkinson, NE
Richard McPhillips, Belgrade, NE
Lonny Franssen, Amelia, NE
Frances Thompson, Central City, NE
Van Galusha, Central City, NE
Troy Thompson, Lincoln, NE
Sheri Thompson, Martell, NE
Randy Thompson, Martell, NE
Ernie Fellows, Mills, NE

Shaun Higgins, Naper, NE
Tom Higgins, Naper, NE
Kevin Connell, Newport, NE
Karl Connell, Newport, NE
Bernice Jamison POA Jeri Kuchera, Newport, NE
Teri Taylor, Newport, NE
Teri Taylor, Newport, NE
Tim Taylor, Newport, NE
Dennis Taylor, Newport, NE
Timothy Taylor, Newport, NE
Dennis Taylor, Newport, NE
Charles E Thompson, North Platte, NE
Caroline Glaser, Spalding, NE
Susan Luebbe, Stuart, NE
Burt Straka, Stuart, NE
Karen Straka, Stuart, NE
Susan Dunavan, York, NE
Doug Cobb, Stuart, NE
Sharon Cobb, Stuart, NE

Doris Lynn, Bennington, OK
Cecil Lynn, Bennington, OK
Sue Kelso, Bennington, OK
Gladys White, Bokchito, OK
Jerry Tonubbee, Durant, OK
Irene Clark, Durant, OK
Francis Olbert, Edmond, OK
Billie Boston, Oklahoma City, OK

Alva White, Allen, TX
Barbara Orpineda, Arp, TX
Jesse Orpineda, Arp, TX
Hudson Orpineda, Arp, TX
Mark Henager, Big Sandy, TX
Carla Henager, Big Sandy, TX
Michael Bishop, Douglass, TX
Kathi Bishop, Douglass, TX
Johnnie Johnson, Douglass, TX
Alvin Blazek, Holly Lake Ranch, TX
Jim Thornton, Holly Lake Ranch, TX
Audrey Thornton, Holly Lake Ranch, TX
Mike Scott, Sulphur Springs, TX
Michael Caleb Post, Sulphur Springs, TX
Joe Scott, Sulphur Springs, TX
Susan Scott, Sulphur Springs, TX
Fred Watson, Sulphur Springs, TX
David Davenport, Tyler, TX
Leta Davenport, Tyler, TX
Hillary Bryand, Tyler, TX
Steven Bryand, Tyler, TX
Haley Bryand, Tyler, TX
Heidi Elizabeth Bryand, Tyler, TX
Louise Johnston, Tyler, TX
Mike Hathorn, Wells, TX

Sylvia Ricks, Wells, TX
Janet Martin, Wells, TX
Mary Jane Wright, Winnsboro, TX
Blair Wright, Winnsboro, TX
Craig Wright, Winnsboro, TX
David Daniel, Winnsboro, TX
Clara Daniel, Winnsboro, TX
Naida Daniel, Winnsboro, TX
Eugenia McCoy, Winnsboro, TX
Samuel Cowan, Winnsboro, TX
Eleanor Fairchild, Winnsboro, TX
Marjorie M. Donn, Liberty, TX
John Kinzer, Liberty, TX