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April 12, 2013

The Honorable Lee Terry
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Terry and Matheson:

The Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) thanks you for your bipartisan support for the Keystone XL pipeline project and your bipartisan support for liquid pipeline projects generally. We support H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act of 2013.

Members of AOPL are constructing, planning or considering pipeline projects across America. Each one of these many pipeline projects will provide good-paying jobs for American construction workers, spur good paying manufacturing jobs supplying steel and pipeline components, and create numerous indirect jobs supplying the services required to support construction workers. Multiple pipeline projects by AOPL members will bring the benefits of new North American petroleum production from Canada, North Dakota, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and states in between. Residents in nearly every state and every region of the country including the Northeast and Midwest will benefit from the jobs and expanding economy brought by pipeline construction.

AOPL shares your goal of bringing American workers and consumers the jobs and consumer benefits of constructing the Keystone XL pipeline as soon as possible. Construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will provide as many as 40,000 direct and indirect jobs desperately needed by American workers. Keystone XL will also bring new supplies of North American crude oil at prices lower than international markets to the benefit of U.S. consumers. The American public awaiting the benefits of this project deserve a prompt review and approval.

As you know, the Keystone XL project has undergone exhaustive environmental review for more than four years. Multiple government agencies have studied the issues in your legislation closely. The most recent federal government environmental impact statement, as with each previous version before, determined Keystone XL will not significantly impact the environment. Approval by the State of Nebraska of a revised route through that state removes any remaining reason for delay.

Pipelines are the safest possible way to transport petroleum and Keystone XL will be the safest possible pipeline. Built to the highest construction and safety standards, it will also employ 57 special safety conditions set by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety

Administration. Compared to alternative transportation modes, Keystone XL is the best way to protect the public and environment.

We remain hopeful the Administration will conclude its review process soon and formally agree that Keystone XL is in the national interest. However, your legislation provides an important alternative option in case the Administration decision process is delayed.

Thank you again for your interest in timely decisions on pipeline projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew J. Black". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Andrew J. Black
President, AOPL