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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

RE: Letter in Support of *H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act (NoRA Act)*

Dear Chairman Upton:

AFPM, the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, writes today to express its support for passage of *H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval (NoRA) Act*. AFPM strongly supports and urges the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline as a means to increasing our nation's energy supply and enhancing national security. AFPM supports the NoRA Act which would clear any remaining roadblocks and approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline that has been extensively studied and reviewed since 2008.

AFPM is a 111-year old trade association representing high-tech American manufacturers that use oil and natural gas liquids as raw materials to make virtually the entire U.S. supply of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, other fuels and home heating oil, as well as the petrochemicals used as building blocks for thousands of vital products in daily life. AFPM members make modern life possible while keeping America moving and growing as we meet the needs of our nation and local communities, strengthen economic and national security, and support 2 million American jobs.

Completion of the Keystone XL pipeline would strengthen our nation's energy security by adding another source of supply from our ally and neighbor Canada. It would also provide significant job growth, reduce our nation's reliance on oil from unstable nations, increase local, state and federal tax revenues, and improve the economy, without having any significant impact on the environment.

According to the EIA, Canada is currently the largest supplier of petroleum imports to the United States, providing 28 percent of the total U.S. crude oil imports with over 2 million barrels of oil per day. With crude oil reserves of over 175 billion barrels, Canada has the second-largest oil reserves in the world. The Keystone XL pipeline expansion would bring an additional 830,000 barrels per day of capacity online – decreasing our nation's reliance on imported oil from unstable regions of the world. Furthermore, the pipeline could also transport crude oil from the Bakken and Williston formations in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana to U.S. refiners.

Canada's oil sands are being developed with or without this pipeline. Canadian government officials are on record saying that oil sands-derived crude oil will be exported to overseas markets, such as China, if the Keystone XL pipeline is not built. In such a scenario, oil sands development would carry-on unimpeded; however, the benefits in U.S. crude oil transportation and refining efficiencies would be lost.

Failure to approve Keystone XL could actually increase greenhouse gas emissions, as noted in the U.S. Department of State's 2011 allegedly 'Final' Environmental Impact Statement on the project. The State Department cited a study that concluded that policies limiting oil sands crude use could cause Canadian producers to ship their product to Asian markets, while the U.S. would have to import more oil in tankers from the Middle East and elsewhere, thus increasing the carbon footprint of transporting the oil and creating a crude oil "shuffle." The study calls this long-distance movement of oil, thousands of miles around the world in tankers, a "shuffle" that would result in higher carbon dioxide emissions than simply extracting the Canadian petroleum from the oil sands for U.S. consumption, due to emissions created by shipping the oil such great distances.

After four years of extensive study and debate, it is clear building the Keystone XL pipeline would greatly benefit the United States. Pipelines are already the safest, cheapest and most reliable means of transporting crude oil and petroleum products. This pipeline will be the most advanced, state-of-the-art pipeline in use today exceeding all U.S. pipeline safety standards.

AFPM strongly urges approval of the Keystone XL pipeline and fully supports H.R. 3. It is critical that the U.S. take steps to strengthen our nation's security by meeting more of our energy needs through a strategic ally and partner like Canada, and reduce our dependence on energy resources from unstable, and potentially unfriendly, regions of the world. By approving the Keystone XL pipeline, we are putting America's security, economy, and consumers first.

Sincerely,



Charles T. Drevna
President