

My name is Randy Thompson, I'm from Martell, Nebraska. I am here as a Nebraska citizen and landowner. I would like to thank the chairman and the committee for the opportunity to be here today.

I would like to start my testimony today by thanking President Obama for making the right decision by denying the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. I am proud to think that the voices of Nebraskans had an impact on his decision. Those of us who live and work along the proposed path of this pipeline applaud him for placing our welfare ahead of the interests of big oil companies.

As a lifelong Nebraskan I can honestly tell you that I have never witnessed any project that has stirred the emotions of my fellow Nebraskans like the Keystone XL has. Contrary to what you may have heard from some of our elected officials, I can assure you that the dust hasn't settled in Nebraska.

TransCanada has built a mountain of distrust among the ordinary citizens of our state, and even with their voluntary agreement to move the pipeline out of the Sandhills we remain very skeptical. Many Nebraskans view TransCanada as an overly aggressive company who thought it could bully and intimidate its way across our state, and having witnessed TransCanada's actions during the application process has made us wary of what they would do if empowered by a premature permit.

TransCanada has been granted plenty of free passes and now they seek yet another. They want their political allies to free them from the tangled mess that they, themselves, helped to create. Perhaps it's time for the free passes to come to an end. If the Keystone XL truly has merit then it should be able to withstand the rigorous and comprehensive review that it deserves, and has not gotten.

If this pipeline is built thousands of us in the heartlands will have to live and work next to it for the balance of our lives, and in many cases the balance of our kids and grandkids lives. It will cross hundreds of our waterways, lakes, and streams, and it will only get riskier with time; so please, don't tell us that this permit needs to be hurried through.

In the heartlands many of us feel that approval of this project would strip us of our individual property rights. We feel this way because we would be forced to give up a portion of our hard earned property for the personal gain and benefit of corporate entities. We have seen no evidence that this pipeline is anything other than an export pipeline providing access to the world oil market for Canadian Tar Sands. Outside of providing a few months of temporary employment for some Americans it yields few other benefits. Completion of the pipeline would actually increase the price of the oil we are currently importing from Canada to our Midwest refineries. This is an undisputed fact.

Perhaps it's just my Nebraska logic, but from my perspective it appears that the United States is getting the short end of the stick on this deal. Canada and the big oil companies are reaping the rewards while Americans are being left to fix the fence.

Thank you for allowing me to be here today.

Randy Thompson

