

Opening Statement of the Honorable Ed Whitfield
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Continuation of Hearing on "American Jobs Now: H.R. 3548,
the North American Energy Access Act"
February 3, 2012
(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today's hearing is just another delay in the long list of delays we've seen with the Keystone XL project. The State Department has already spent 40 months reviewing this project that won't cost taxpayers a dime. And despite the fact that the Department concluded that the pipeline would have "no significant impact on the environment," we are still waiting.

Americans are looking for a plan for energy independence, and the President has done nothing to advance that cause, choosing instead to invest in failing firms that give him political benefit, like the bankrupt solar panel manufacturer Solyndra.

The president said in his State of the Union address that he supports "all of the above," but his actions are contradictory to that statement.

- His administration has worked tirelessly to bring an end to coal, our most affordable for of electricity.
- Leasing on federal lands for oil and natural is at an all-time low under his watch.
- The Chairman of his Nuclear Regulatory Commission has done everything in his power to limit nuclear power by stopping Yucca Mountain.

Time and again President Obama chooses the "Solyndra economy" over the "Keystone economy." The "Keystone economy" is privately funded, creates jobs and will bring nearly a million barrels of secure oil each day from our good ally Canada. We've seen what the "Solyndra economy" brings. It doesn't work.

The project is supported by members on both sides of the aisle, including 47 House Democrats who voted in favor of legislation to expedite the pipeline decision last year and numerous Senate Democrats on record in favor of this commonsense project.

Several labor unions have spoken out in strong support of this project and the jobs it will create. American labor unions have also signed Project Labor Agreements with TransCanada to build the pipeline – we just need to say yes to these jobs.

A recent poll showed the American people strongly in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline: 64% supported it, and only 22% opposed.

I think it is high time that we build this pipeline. I urge all members to support H.R. 3548, the North American Energy Access Act to build the Keystone XL pipeline.

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