



United Association
of Journeymen and Apprentices
of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
of the United States and Canada

Founded 1889

Celebrating 125 Years



General Office File Reference: WPH

January 8, 2015

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 3 to Approve Keystone XL

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 370,000 members of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada, and Australia (UA), **I urge you to support H.R. 3, a bill to approve the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.** This shovel-ready project will put thousands of hardworking men and women to work at *zero cost to taxpayers*. In fact, the project is covered by a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which ensures high-quality and safe construction along with family-supporting wages and training opportunities for local workers.

Pipelines are by far the safest means of transporting liquid energy sources, and TransCanada has pledged to make Keystone XL the safest pipeline in the world through various new quality control methods that go above and beyond minimum regulatory standards. For example, among other things, this project calls for using 36-inch, specially constituted steel piping that is resistant to puncture, application of pipeline coating with a corrosion-resistant shell, and procedures requiring the pipeline to be buried deeper underground than most existing pipelines. TransCanada will also install remote electronic monitoring and other safety systems to ensure all components of the pipeline are protected 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

This pipeline will be constructed by the best trained pipeline workforce available. The UA alone invests \$250 million per year in state-of-the-art skill and safety training programs and the high-level qualifications of the craft workers who will be used to build this pipeline will add another level of quality control on this project. Members of the UA and other crafts who will be involved in the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline *spend their entire careers* training and working on pipelines and other projects that some may label “temporary,” but such jobs are the nature of the construction industry and a core component of the U.S. economy. These workers, and the families they support, depend on these jobs for their livelihoods.

The construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will strengthen our economy, create jobs, and promote North American energy independence. For six years, American families have waited for the approval of this critical energy project, which is why I strongly urge you to support H.R. 3, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Hite
General President

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