



April 10, 2013

The Honorable Lee Terry
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Terry,

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I am writing in strong support of your legislation, H.R. 3, the *Northern Route Approval Act*, which will facilitate approval and construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. NECA believes congressional intervention is needed to facilitate the construction of this pipeline that would stretch from Alberta through Midwestern states to the Gulf of Mexico. The delay in moving forward with this long overdue project has been long and protracted; the time to act is now.

NECA is the nationally recognized voice of the \$130 billion electrical construction industry that brings power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities across the U.S. NECA's national office and its 119 local chapters are dedicated to enhancing the industry through continuing education, labor relations, safety codes, standards development, and government relations. NECA is committed to advocating for a comprehensive energy policy that addresses all available opportunities for energy exploration and independence.

The Keystone XL pipeline will provide 20,000 jobs in the construction and manufacturing sectors while adding thousands of jobs throughout other parts of the economy in sectors including service, including jobs for NECA contractors and their employees. Additionally, construction of the pipeline is estimated to generate \$585 million in state and local taxes plus another \$5 billion in property taxes. With unemployment in the construction industry hovering at 16 percent, it would be irresponsible to let good-paying jobs slip away.

Construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will greatly enhance our nation's energy security and promote energy independence. Increasing global demand for energy and the continued economic and political volatility in many oil producing regions demonstrates a clear and growing need here at home for all forms of reliable and affordable energy. Canada is already our largest supplier of imported oil. At a time of unrest and uncertainty in other energy producing countries around the world, Canada's vast energy reserves are more important to the future of U.S. energy security than ever before. Enhancing our energy partnership with Canada will strengthen America's energy future.

Once the pipeline is completed, the project will connect U.S. refiners in the Midwest and Texas with a new source of Canadian crude oil, providing a stable source of needed energy from a key ally. It is clear Congress has a critical role in ending deadlock and enacting policies that support approval and construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. The benefits of constructing the Keystone XL pipeline are clear: job creation, energy security, energy independence, economic growth; such construction is in the national interest. NECA strongly endorses your legislation that will deliver these many benefits to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco A. Giamberardino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M".

Marco A. Giamberardino
Executive Director, Government Affairs

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