

Ross E. Eisenberg

Vice President

Energy & Resources Policy

April 16, 2012

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, supports H.R. 3, the “Northern Route Approval Act.” H.R. 3 would bring to a close the unnecessarily protracted regulatory process for the Keystone XL pipeline and allow the project, a clear manufacturing job creator, to move forward.

The NAM strongly supports final approval and construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. This project has been waiting for its permit for almost five years. That is three years longer than the *original* Keystone pipeline needed to secure its permit in 2008, even though that pipeline was double the size and crossed twice as many states as Keystone XL. Keystone XL should be a symbol of job creation, advanced manufacturing and North American energy security. Instead, it has become synonymous with red tape and political gridlock.

The three-year environmental impact statement (EIS) process completed by the State Department in 2011 included numerous public meetings, hundreds of thousands of public and agency comments and publication of a Draft EIS and a Supplemental Draft EIS, concluding with an eight volume, 8,000-page Final EIS that thoroughly examined every possible environmental and socioeconomic impact of the project. The President then denied the project on the basis of needing more time for environmental review of the new route through Nebraska. The project then received more review, concluding in January 2013 with a Final Evaluation Report by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and formal approval by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman.

Nevertheless, the State Department has commenced yet another comprehensive, multiagency review of the project. The scope of this latest review went considerably farther than the proposed new route through Nebraska—and even into areas not required by current law—yet, as was the case in 2011 and in Nebraska’s

latest analysis, once again concludes that the project will have no significant impact on the environment.

The studies that the President sought 15 months ago are complete. There is no longer a need for additional analysis. The Keystone XL pipeline is a job creator for manufacturing, producing thousands of direct jobs and even more indirect jobs and “flow through” jobs. It is a boon for manufacturing in the United States, both through construction of the pipeline and access to a reliable energy supply from Canada, North Dakota and Montana.

The Keystone XL pipeline is one of the clearest examples of Washington holding manufacturing back, and its delay must stop. Manufacturers support H.R. 3 and stand ready to work with you to obtain final approval for the Keystone XL pipeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Eisenberg", is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Ross Eisenberg  
Vice President  
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