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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON  
April 8, 2011

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

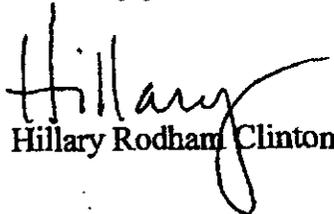
Thank you for your letter urging the Department of State to approve expeditiously the Presidential Permit application for the Keystone XL project. I appreciate your observations about the events in Libya and the Middle East and the pipeline's potential impact on our national energy security and our economy.

In order for the Department to make a sound decision, it is important that we conduct our review in a thorough and transparent manner, taking into consideration all relevant factors, including environmental, energy, and economic impacts. Under Executive Order 13337, we must consider all of these factors, including the potential benefits you highlight, in deciding whether granting the Presidential Permit is in the national interest.

Currently, the Department is preparing to release a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in mid-April 2011. For your information, enclosed is a media note on the Supplemental EIS and the next steps in the review process. To ensure proper consideration of your views, we have also included your letter in the administrative record for the Keystone XL application.

I appreciate that you have taken the opportunity to engage us on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Enclosure:  
As stated.