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**Congress of the United States**

Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2011

L30

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing today in support of the TransCanada Keystone Gulf Coast Expansion Project (Keystone XL Project) which has been awaiting a Presidential Permit since 2008. The Keystone XL Project is a prime example of a critical private sector project delayed by a slow government bureaucratic process that is preventing the creation of thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue. It represents an extraordinary opportunity to put Americans back to work, invest billions into the economy, and improve the security of this nation. Further delays in the approval process will continue to jeopardize this project's realization. We urge you to conclude this process, approve a Presidential Permit, and allow the Keystone XL expansion to move forward as soon as possible.

In recent months, members of Congress have presented strong and convincing arguments in support of the Keystone XL Project, including: the creation of jobs for thousands of Americans, millions in tax revenue for local and state governments, strict environmental regulation in Canada, and billions in indirect economic stimulus connected to the pipeline project. The benefits of this project far outweigh any argument made by the opposition. But the Keystone XL Project is not only a matter of national interest; it is a matter of national security.

Despite a recent focus on renewable energy, America is still many years away from ending its dependence on non-renewable resources like petroleum. As the largest consumer of petroleum products in the world, we currently depend on foreign imports for more than half of our petroleum usage. Dependence on foreign oil has created difficult geopolitical relationships with damaging consequences for our national security. Without plentiful sources of energy, the United States must accommodate and pander to oil producing nations with autocratic governments whose behavior would be profoundly condemned in other circumstances. In addition to providing anti-democratic governments with revenues that prop up their economies, the U.S. is beholden to volatile and unfriendly governments with the potential to leverage their resources in a manner that threatens the U.S. economy and the ability of our military to protect our country.

According to the State Department, at least half of Venezuela's oil exports are shipped to the United States, accounting for close to a quarter of the country's total federal revenues. The continued imports of Venezuelan crude amount to a tacit approval of Venezuelan government policy, a government that actively subverts the will of its people, supports terrorist organizations and promotes anti-U.S. rhetoric throughout the world. The Keystone

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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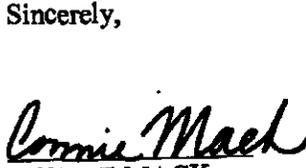
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XL pipeline could entirely replace the oil imported from Venezuela and end the need to depend on a nation whose government currently enjoys an influx of United States cash to support its dangerous goals.

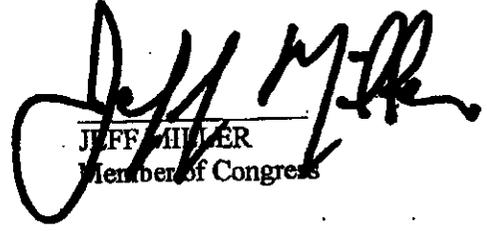
As the price at the pump continues to climb, America needs to look to reliable oil producing countries that do not force us to compromise our ideals and national security. Canada is already our largest supplier of oil, a responsible and reliable partner in energy, and a friendly and democratic government that shares the values and ideals of the United States. TransCanada's Keystone XL Project represents a chance to reduce dependence on foreign despotic governments, improve our national security, and strengthen ties with an important ally.

Madam Secretary, we urge you to make the Keystone XL Project a priority and approve a Presidential Permit as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

  
CONNIE MACK  
Member of Congress

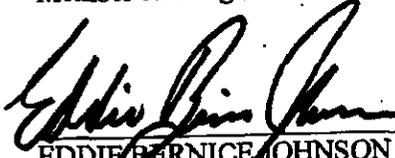
  
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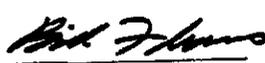
  
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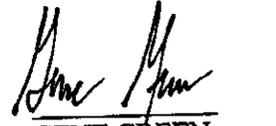
  
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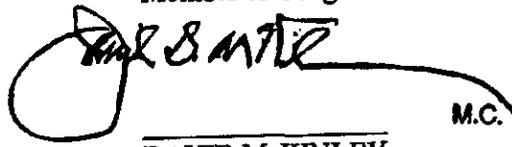
  
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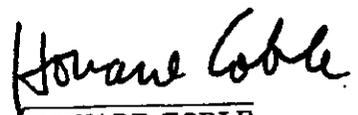
  
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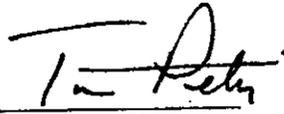
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