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# CITY OF HOUSTON

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JOLANDA "JO" JONES  
AT-LARGE POSITION 5

December 1, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Clinton:

As a lifelong Houstonian and an at-large member of its City Council, I am writing to request that the Department of State prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. This project may potentially have serious adverse impacts on Houston, none of which have been adequately addressed in the Draft EIS. Substantial additional information should be considered in the NEPA process, and the citizens of Houston should have the opportunity to comment on this information. The City of Houston also needs this information to help us deliver emergency responses, if necessary. The City of Houston also needs to know the health affects to its citizens.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and Department of the Interior raised numerous major deficiencies with the Draft EIS, I am most concerned with the lack of attention to the downstream impacts of Keystone XL. As you may know, tar sands is a sour, heavy crude, and refining it releases higher quantities of sulfur, nitrogen, mercury, lead, nickel, and arsenic into the air than conventional crudes. These chemicals are known to cause cancer, asthma, and other illnesses, along with smog and acid rain. In addition, Houston is already in non-attainment with EPA Ozone regulations. Increased tar sands refining will make it more difficult to meet our air quality goals. It is also my understanding that Alberta, Canada is experiencing significant environmental degradation at the source as the tar sands are extracted in a high-energy and high-emissions process.

The Draft EIS did not adequately address the impacts of increased pollution on the public health, an especially important consideration given the concentration of tar sands refineries in marginalized communities already plagued by illness. I believe it is our duty as public officials to watch out for these communities and provide them with the opportunity to review and comment on the potential health hazard posed to their communities by this pipeline.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER  
DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2012 201100399

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I respectfully request that the Department of State adhere to the Administration's commitment to transparency by conducting a Supplemental EIS and providing ample opportunity for public comment on the document. I respectfully request on behalf of the residents of Houston a complete analysis of this project's impact on our city and the opportunity to comment before the process moves forward.

The People Are The City,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jolanda 'Jo' Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "J".

Jolanda "Jo" Jones  
Houston City Council  
At-Large Position 5

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