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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0916

November 15, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to express our sincere opposition to your decision to delay the approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline plan until after the 2012 elections, and we respectfully ask that you put politics aside and the interests of our nation first by approving this project. In addition to the economic growth and thousands of new jobs this project would provide, there are dire national security consequences to foregoing this energy source from our ally and allowing another country, like China, to utilize the resources instead.

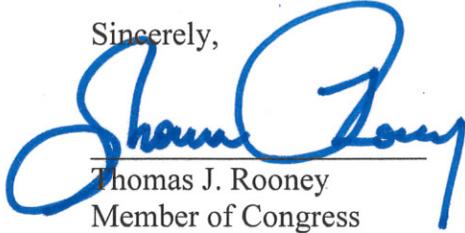
We are in a global energy race; the United States competes with growing economies such as China for available energy resources around the world. As long as your Administration pursues an energy policy that prohibits us from developing American resources, like oil and natural gas off the Outer Continental Shelf and the Rocky Mountains, we will remain dependent on importing energy. Our dependence on foreign oil is a major security threat to our country. While we continue to debate and try to improve our own energy policies, we must do more to secure ourselves in the global market. Currently, the United States imports over nine million barrels of oil a day, with Canada being our greatest supplier. The less we buy from Canada, the more we buy from countries that do not have our best interests at heart and wish to do us harm. We are not Canada's only energy customer, and if we do not buy their products someone else will. In this case, we are now hearing it will be China.

Increasing our dependence on countries such as Venezuela for oil poses a major security threat to our nation. It's not just the cars we drive and planes we fly in that rely on oil. The fact is our tanks, armored vehicles, jets and other military equipment use oil. In order to maintain the strongest, most advanced and prepared military in the world, we need a dependable source of energy. This reality and need for security is what should guide the approval of the pipeline. Why further enable our enemies with not only our money but our dependence on their energy sources?

We have long been proponents of the United States becoming energy self-sufficient, but until that time, we must import from our allies as much as possible to remain competitive in the energy race and safer in our reliance on foreign suppliers. By delaying approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline Project, we are not only giving China an unnecessary energy advantage, we are further hurting in the global economy and reducing our own security.

As President, you have a responsibility to rise above the controversy surrounding this project, and an obligation to resist the temptation there may be to delay the decision for political reasons. These are difficult times for our nation, and times like this call for strong leadership. Therefore, we respectfully request that you put our nation's economic and security needs first and move forward with approving the pipeline.

Sincerely,

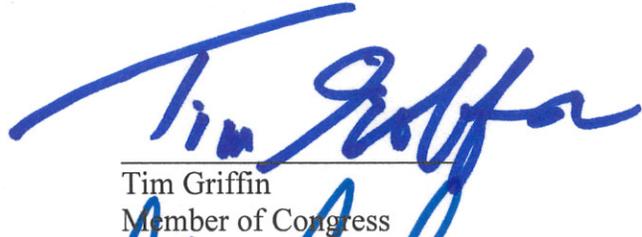

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

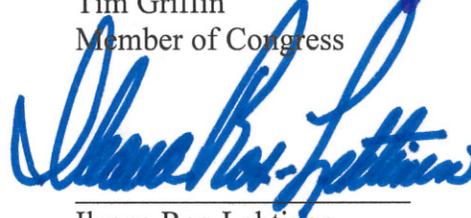

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress


Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress


J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress


Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

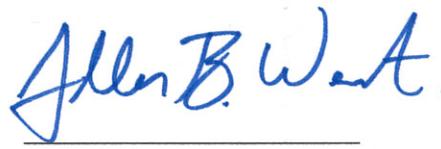

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

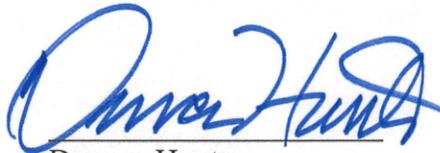

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Duncan Hunter
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