



2211 Norfolk Street, Suite 410
Houston, Texas 77098
P 713 337 8800
F 866 273 8998
www.consumerenergyalliance.org

February 8, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
Office of the Secretary
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

On behalf of Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), our more than 200 member companies, and our nearly 300,000 individual energy consumers, we would like to congratulate you on becoming the 68th secretary of state. We appreciate your long-standing dedication to public service, and we look forward to your leadership at the Department of State.

Among the most politically divisive issues that the Department of State will face this year is the presidential permit application that TransCanada has filed regarding the Keystone XL pipeline. As the voice of energy consumers, CEA would like to express our strong support for the Keystone XL project as a safe and environmentally responsible means to significantly increase the stability and security of America's energy supply and to grow the economy.

By reducing our dependence on overseas oil imports, the United States can mitigate the impacts that instability abroad has on oil prices and, by effect, millions of American energy consumers. Further, oil that would be transported via the Keystone XL pipeline – both from Canadian and U.S. sources – will be produced regardless of whether this pipeline is built. We believe it makes far more sense to refine the oil in the Gulf Coast refinery complex and consume it here in the United States, helping to create American jobs and supplying millions of U.S. consumers with affordable fuels.

Now that Nebraska Governor Heineman has approved the pipeline's revised route through Nebraska, the Department of State can move forward with its draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, understanding that the process has met or exceeded all reasonable requirements for a thorough, transparent review. The Department of State has given no indication that additional delays will occur. Staying true to a clear timeframe will provide necessary certainty and transparency for the American public.

Keystone XL is part of a broader transition toward North American energy self-sufficiency – a revolution that will have profound effects on U.S. foreign relations and global geopolitics. Increased supplies of North American oil and natural gas coupled with greater adoption of energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy can eliminate the need for foreign imports within this decade.

For the first time in decades, the United States has an opportunity to advance our foreign policy without being beholden to foreign oil powers. North American energy self-sufficiency will allow the United States greater leverage and transparency as we seek to further our interests abroad, such as containing nuclear proliferation and expanding human rights to oppressed populations.

For over four years, CEA and our members have closely monitored the environmental review process and submitted more than 500,000 letters of support for the project during Department of State public comment periods. If CEA can serve as a resource to you and your staff as the Department reviews the Keystone XL presidential permit application, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Holt", written in a cursive style.

David Holt
President