



**Ohio Senate**  
Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

February 19, 2014

U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Energy Resources, Room 4843  
Attn: Keystone XL Public Comments  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Support for Keystone XL Pipeline – National Interest Determination

Dear Secretary Kerry:

The Keystone XL pipeline is in our nation's best interest. The project will help bolster our nation's energy security, create jobs and lower prices for consumers in Ohio.

North America is in the midst of an energy renaissance. Yet, the United States lacks sufficient energy infrastructure to fully realize the benefits of this remarkable surge in oil production. Just as Ohio and the United States will benefit from pipeline infrastructure to bring oil and gas to market, so will the rest of the United States from long overdue construction of Keystone XL. Keystone XL will benefit us by helping to solve our infrastructure constraints. By transporting more than 830,000 barrels of oil each day from domestic and Canadian resources, this pipeline will dramatically reduce our reliance on oil from unreliable and often unfriendly sources.

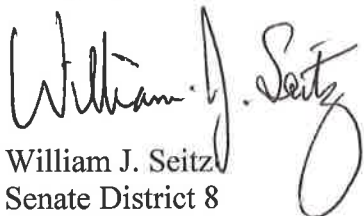
Markets served by Gulf Coast refineries, including consumers in Ohio, will benefit from a more affordable, secure supply of oil. Currently, Gulf Coast refineries are reliant on OPEC oil for more than 60 percent of their crude oil imports. Much of this oil consists of heavier crude imports from Venezuela and the Middle East that cost more to transport. Keystone XL alone could displace all of the crude oil that these PADD III refineries import from Venezuela. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Energy concluded that Keystone XL would decrease the cost of gasoline for Midwest consumers since Gulf Coast refineries also serve the Midwest market.

Keystone XL has undergone one of the most thorough environmental reviews ever conducted. The fifth iteration of the environmental analysis again concludes that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. Moreover, pipelines remain the most efficient, safest way to transport large volumes of oil.



On April 10, 2013 the Ohio Senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 (enclosed), which urges the United States Department of State to approve the presidential permit application allowing the construction and operation of the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline between the United States and Canada. It passed the Senate by a vote of 28-5 and passed out of the Ohio House 90-7. The merits of the project clearly demonstrate that the project is in our national interest. Now that we have the facts, it's time to move forward and grant Keystone XL a Presidential Permit. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important project.

Sincerely,




William J. Seitz  
Senate District 8



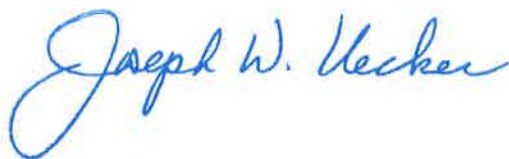
Cliff Hite (Primary Sponsor SCR7)  
Senate District 1



Frank LaRose  
Senate District 27




Tim Schaffer  
Senate District 31



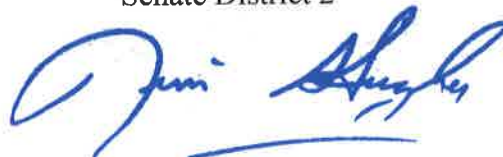
Joe Uecker  
Senate District 14




Randy Gardner  
Senate District 2



Tom Patton  
Senate District 24



Jim Hughes  
Senate District 16



Kevin Bacon  
Senate District 3



William Coley  
Senate District 4

Shannon Jones

Shannon Jones  
Senate District 7

Bill Beagle

Bill Beagle  
Senate District 5

Troy Balderson

Troy Balderson  
Senate District 20

David Burke

David Burke  
Senate District 26

John Eklund

John Eklund  
Senate District 18

Chris Widener

Chris Widener  
Senate District 10

Kristoph W. Jordan

Kris Jordan  
Senate District 19

Larry Obhof

Larry Obhof  
Senate District 22

Keith Faber

Keith Faber  
Senate District 12

Peggy Lehner

Peggy Lehner  
Senate District 6

Bob Peterson

Bob Peterson  
Senate District 17

Gayle Manning

Gayle Manning  
Senate District 13

Scott Oelslager

Scott Oelslager  
Senate District 29