



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

March 3, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

I am writing regarding the May 4, 2012, application from TransCanada Corp. for a proposed pipeline that would connect the Canadian border to Steele City, Nebraska. The company is requesting a Presidential Permit as part of the project and I support that application.

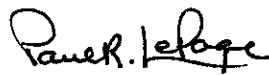
The State of Maine's economic relationship with Canada is critical. Canada has consistently been Maine's largest export market, representing over a third of all Maine exports in 2009 with \$858 million of Maine products sold. This relationship is certainly a function of our geographic proximity, but it is also a result of a partnership in developing a clear and consistent regulatory environment, especially with cross-border infrastructure.

As a state with one of the longest borders with Canada, ensuring that the review of projects is fair and expeditious is absolutely essential for Maine's economic future. Adding uncertainty to major cross-border projects will only result in Canada looking to projects that do not require U.S. regulatory approval and may avoid the State of Maine. This is the wrong direction for the world's most vibrant economic partners.

The United States and Canada must develop practical solutions to address shared environmental challenges and we are working on these issues in New England and with our counterparts in the Eastern Canadian Provinces. However, using the Presidential Permitting process to address all of these issues will undermine our current and future economic relationship with our largest trading partner. I encourage you approve the May 4, 2012 application, and continue to build our mutually beneficial economic partnership with Canada.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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