March 6, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:

After nearly six years of exhaustive review and study, I am pleased that the State Department’s Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has confirmed that the Keystone XL Pipeline would have a negligible effect on the environment — but a very positive impact on America’s economy.

I write today to add my voice to the chorus of employers, labor unions, workers and consumers who are asking for the Obama Administration to finally approve this much needed energy infrastructure that will strengthen both our economy and our national security.

The Keystone XL Pipeline will support over 42,000 jobs and $2 billion in wages for American workers in just two years. According to a recent study, in Wisconsin the project will provide more than 1,000 jobs over five years and nearly 9,000 jobs over 20 years. America’s Gross Domestic Product will grow by $20 billion as a result of the project.

Pipelines have long been recognized as one of the safest ways to transport crude oil and petroleum products to market. Even so, TransCanada has agreed to unprecedented safety measures that go well beyond the usual pipeline requirements recommended by the federal government.

It is also important to point out that the Keystone XL Pipeline will only further strengthen our relationship with our strongest trade partner, Canada. The U.S. Census Bureau has found that for every dollar the U.S. spends on Canadian products, Canadians purchase up to 89 cents of U.S. goods and services. That is a substantially better return than the 27 cents we receive when we purchase oil from Venezuela.

In fact, the Keystone XL Pipeline could be part of a larger strategy that could result in the U.S. and Canada providing 100 percent of America’s liquid fuel needs by 2030. Our days of relying on unstable and at times hostile nations for our energy needs should be drawing to a close.
After all of the studying and research, it is very clear that it is time to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project. Please act quickly to allow this project to move forward and boost our economy and our energy security.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Governor