March 5, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
Keystone XL Pipeline Project
2201 C Street NW, Room 2726
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We are writing to you to voice our strong support for the Keystone XL pipeline permit. The U.S. State Department has once again found that the Keystone XL Pipeline would have a negligible effect on the environment. After more than five years of environmental review, it is time to approve this key piece of American energy infrastructure.

The Keystone XL pipeline expansion would provide a significant boost to U.S. energy security and our economy. The project will support over 42,000 jobs and $2 billion in wages for American workers in just two years. According to a recent study, Wisconsin will see more than 1,000 jobs over five years and nearly 9,000 jobs over 20 years tied to the project’s benefits.

At a time when we could use a boost, the Energy Policy Research Foundation concluded that the Keystone XL project could contribute $20 billion to the U.S. economy — and not a single dime of taxpayer funds would be needed for this stimulus plan.

Approving the Keystone XL pipeline is also critically important to protecting our national security. The full Keystone XL pipeline would bring in an additional 830,000 barrels of North American oil per day, reducing our need to import oil from less friendly sources. With Keystone XL, our crude imports from Canada could reach 4 million barrels per day by 2020, twice the amount we now import from the Persian Gulf. By supporting domestic production and oil imports from our ally Canada, instead of politically unstable countries, we will strengthen both our national security and energy security.

Canada will develop and market their oil supplies regardless of whether the Keystone XL is approved here. It just makes sense to approve this pipeline and bring that fuel to the U.S., to grow our economy, provide jobs for our workers, and power our vehicles, businesses and homes. Americans have waited nearly five years for this pipeline to be approved and for America’s government to increase our energy security. After all the delays, it is time to act.

We are very hopeful that you will agree with us and approve the project so that this very important energy and economic development project can move forward without delay. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Kuglitsch
Wisconsin State Representative

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Wisconsin State Representative