



May 23, 2017

Nichole Mulcahy
Deputy Director and Legal Counsel of the Natural Gas & Pipeline Department
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Deputy Director Mulcahy:

I am writing to express The Ports-to-Plains Alliance's strong support for approval of TransCanada's application for route approval for the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline will utilize the latest technology and will be one of the safest pipelines ever built. Keystone XL will certainly be much safer, more efficient, and more reliable than other modes of crude oil transport.

I recently toured the TransCanada Oil Control Center at their headquarters in Calgary and witnessed how they monitor all of their pipelines 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Highly skilled pipeline controllers manage the sophisticated monitoring equipment, which connect to local control systems at each facility via satellite and other communication technologies to receive data every five seconds from thousands of sensors across the system. These sensors monitor and can detect very small changes in pressure, temperature, flow rate and other indicators. More importantly I was able to meet some of the employees at TransCanada. While the state-of-the-art technology, system redundancy and operating procedures were very impressive, what struck me was the corporate culture that demonstrated an overriding commitment to safety. I felt that these men and women felt a deep, personal obligation to operate and maintain the pipelines to the highest standard.

With more than 2.4 million miles of pipe, the United States has the largest energy pipeline network in the world. That includes approximately 72,000 miles of crude oil pipeline. According to the American Petroleum Institute, "pipelines deliver 99.999% of crude oil and petroleum products safely to their destination." With your approval, Keystone XL would be added to the already vast network, only with the latest technology, enhanced standards and independent government oversight to ensure that it delivers energy to American consumers in the safest manner possible.

Of course Keystone XL offers economic benefits as well. Not only in the direct jobs created by construction and maintenance of the pipeline, but ongoing support for the oil production in Alberta and North Dakota for the product the pipeline will carry. It is estimated for every two Canadian jobs created by the Alberta oil sands, one American job is created due to the integrated supply chain and oil field services economy. And I personally feel better about purchasing oil from Canada, a longtime ally with stringent environmental and safety standards, than I do about other petroleum exporting countries.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is a grassroots coalition of cities, counties, businesses, economic development organizations and chambers of commerce from a ten-state, 2,300 mile long transportation and economic development corridor that stretch from Texas to Alberta, Canada.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Reeves
President