



August 1, 2017

Nebraska Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, NE, USA

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), I am writing to express support for the Keystone XL pipeline. SARM is the independent association that represents all 296 rural municipal governments in Saskatchewan, Canada. We are the principle advocate for rural municipalities (RMs) before senior level of governments. SARM takes direction from its members and forms policy accordingly.

In anticipation of the Nebraska Public Service Commission's public hearings on the Keystone XL pipeline application, SARM wishes to emphasize the importance of trade relations between not only Canada and the United States, but also specifically the relationship between Saskatchewan and Nebraska. According to the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, Saskatchewan exported more than \$159 million to Nebraska in 2016 while Nebraska imported nearly \$205 million to Saskatchewan. We value the importance of this trade relationship, as many activities captured by these imports and exports occur in rural Saskatchewan including agriculture and other natural resources.

Furthermore, the expected economic benefits of the Keystone XL project are significant. The project will not only create numerous privately funded employment opportunities, but local governments in both of our jurisdictions will have a stable source of income from economic activity associated with the pipeline's construction and from taxes collected from TransCanada.

The Keystone XL project will have the added benefit of reducing the negative impacts of transporting heavy oil on our highways, an important consideration for local governments. The environmental benefits of this pipeline are also important to consider, as this improved method of transporting crude oil resources will drastically reduce air pollution associated with land transportation.

The Keystone XL pipeline also stands to ensure a long-term stabilized energy supply from Canada to the United States, which will help address rising energy needs. Of added importance, the exceptional trade relations between Canada and the United States combined with the development of this pipeline has the potential to further strengthen energy security in North America.



TransCanada has been a long standing presence in Saskatchewan and it has been SARM's experience that they are a good corporate citizen and a credible and safe operator. TransCanada has developed a positive working relationship with our association, as well as the municipalities that we represent.

It is the position of SARM that the Keystone XL pipeline would advance the economic competitiveness of our province and be a powerful economic stimulus for our membership. We therefore respectfully encourage the Nebraska Public Services Commission to approve the pipeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Orb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray Orb
President