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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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July 27, 2012

Secretary Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
OES/ENV Room 2657
Washington, DC 20520

RE: Comments on Presidential Permit Application for Keystone XL

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing on behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC) in support of TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Keystone XL will be critical to improving American energy security and boosting the economy. RDC urges the U.S. Department of State to expeditiously approve the Presidential Permit necessary for this project to move forward.

RDC is an Alaskan organization comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Keystone XL has undergone the most thorough and exhaustive environmental assessment ever conducted for a cross-border pipeline. After concluding a three-year National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, the State Department affirmed in its Final Environmental Impact Statement in August 2011 that the project would not pose any significant impact to the environment. Included in its study, the agency also noted that TransCanada agreed to an additional 57 safety requirements, which will make this pipeline the safest ever constructed and operated in the United States. Those requirements include: a higher number of remotely controlled shut-off valves, increased pipeline inspections, and burying the pipe deeper in the ground.

As the State Department seeks to reevaluate the environmental impact of the pipeline, RDC strongly urges the agency to examine only those new issues that are associated with the Nebraska re-route. The full range of environmental impacts of the pipeline has been thoroughly evaluated previously, and no reason exists to expand the scope of the next NEPA review to include other issues not associated with the Nebraska route

changes. If the State Department were to unnecessarily broaden the scope of its second review beyond the Nebraska re-route, the agency will only delay the project and the many benefits it will bring, without cause.

The project will drive significant economic growth in the United States. The pipeline is expected to create nearly 20,000 manufacturing and construction jobs in the United States as well as provide billions of dollars in property tax revenue to Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Furthermore, American consumers will benefit from a greater supply of stable, affordable energy.

By supporting domestic production and oil imports from our close ally Canada instead of politically unstable countries, we will strengthen both our national and energy security. Access to affordable, stable supplies of petroleum remains one of the most vital components for a growing economy. However, the uncertainty about long-term supplies is a critical issue that the United States must confront. With global demand steadily rising and political instability spreading throughout oil-exporting nations, the United States must permit Keystone XL as a means to boost our energy security and ensure adequate supplies for American consumers.

A June, 2011 HIS CERA Report also concluded Keystone XL may have a positive impact on gas prices. The report stated that Keystone XL will increase supply to the broader U.S. market - namely the U.S. Gulf Coast. For a given level of demand, higher supply would lower prices for crude oil, which is the most important factor shaping gasoline prices.

RDC believes that construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is in the best interest of all Americans. We respectfully request that the Department of State expeditiously review the new route through Nebraska, utilize the existing environmental analysis from the project's Final EIS, and ultimately grant TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary to begin building the pipeline.

Sincerely,



Carl Portman
Deputy Director

cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Congressman Don Young