



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

January 20, 2015

Re: Oppose S.1, a bill to approve the dirty Keystone XL tar sands pipeline

Dear Senator,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on S.1, yet another bill that would automatically approve the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, eliminating the State Department's ability to assess whether the pipeline is in the national interest and the President's authority to ultimately approve or reject the project.

Construction of this pipeline clearly fails President Obama's climate test and conflicts with the vision laid out in his Climate Action Plan. With low crude oil prices, pipeline constraints, and limited rail traffic, the Keystone XL pipeline will lead to a significant expansion of tar sands development, which would unleash massive amounts of carbon pollution. Furthermore, given TransCanada's terrible safety record and the particularly toxic nature of tar sands oil, Keystone XL would seriously threaten surrounding communities, ecosystems, and watersheds including the vital Ogallala aquifer, which provides clean water for millions of Americans.

Keystone XL poses significant risks and provides no tangible benefits to the United States. The pipeline is intended to ship refined tar sands oil overseas, so it will not enhance America's energy independence. Congress should be supporting policies, like the expired production tax credit that that will grow the economy and advance clean energy, not projects that keep us hooked on dirty fossil fuels.

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is simply unacceptable. No amendments can change that, and we urge you to vote NO on final passage regardless of the outcome of amendments. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2015 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo, or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President