



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

May 20, 2013

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act

Dear Representative:

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 H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, a dangerous bill that eliminates the requirement for a Presidential Permit to build the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and automatically approves it. H.R. 3 recklessly eliminates the Administration's ability to complete adequate safety and environmental impact studies with sufficient public comment. This bill is all the more appalling in light of the Environmental Protection Agency's recent objections to the State Departments' deeply flawed environmental analysis.

The transport of tar sands— the dirtiest form of oil on the planet — is more corrosive to pipelines than traditional crude oil, potentially increasing the risk for ruptures and subsequent spills. Additionally, the Keystone XL pipeline would threaten the environment with far more global warming pollution than conventional crude oil and jeopardize surrounding communities, ecosystems, and watersheds.

A floor vote on H.R. 3 comes on the heels of the devastating tar sands spill in Mayflower, Arkansas that forced dozens of people to evacuate their homes, endangered public health, and threatened local water supplies. The Keystone XL pipeline would be far riskier than the one in Arkansas, as it would be nearly twice as wide and carry almost nine times as much tar sands oil daily. Especially in light of TransCanada's terrible safety record—including 12 separate spills in the United States in the first year of their original Keystone I pipeline—this pipeline is all risk and no reward.

We urge you to vote NO on H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, yet another attempt to disregard due process and endanger public health and the environment in order to rush a decision on the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL pipeline. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2013 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President