



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Reality Check: GOP Presidential Candidates Continue To Stand By Big Oil's Debunked Claims That Keystone Would Boost the Economy

Following President Obama's decision to reject TransCanada's Keystone XL permit, several leading Republican presidential candidates are once again standing by their Big Oil polluter backers and ignoring the facts on jobs, the economy and the Keystone XL pipeline. If the candidates were serious about job creation, they would focus on promoting bipartisan measures to improve our infrastructure, drive a clean energy economy, and fight climate change.

The facts are clear.

Fact: Keystone XL pipeline would not have had a strong impact on jobs numbers

PolitiFact: "True" That Keystone Would Only Create 35 Permanent Jobs. On February 10, 2014, PolitiFact investigated a claim by Van Jones that the Keystone XL pipeline would only create 35 permanent jobs. PolitiFact ruled, "Jones said the Keystone pipeline will only result in 35 permanent jobs after construction. The numbers, as reported by the State Department, back him up, though that's the nature of any big construction project, be it a highway or monument. Jones' claim is True." [PolitiFact, [2/10/14](#)]

Washington Post Fact Checker: "In The Context Of The U.S. Economy," The Impact Of The Keystone XL Pipeline "Is Barely A Ripple." On January 6, 2015, the [Washington Post's](#) fact-checker investigated a claim from Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) that, according to the State Department, Keystone XL would create 42,000 new jobs. The [Post](#) wrote, "The Keystone XL pipeline is a construction project, and so the most direct jobs are related to construction. These are basically short-term jobs, lasting on average 19.5 weeks ... Because of the difficulty in determining whether the project would last one or two years, the State Department decided to express all of the jobs as an annual figure. So those 4,000 construction workers in Montana who work for 19 weeks were turned into nearly 1,500 jobs on annual basis. All told, 10,400 construction workers, engaged for four- or eight-month periods, are expressed in the State Department report as 3,900 jobs — one position that is filled one full year — even though none of the jobs actually last a year ... Yes, that 42,000 figure is in the report, but the number requires more context, especially if supporters want to pitch Keystone XL as an infrastructure project that will bring new jobs to the economy. Using the State Department math, it's safe to say nearly 4,000 construction jobs will be created, at least temporarily. One could even say that

16,000 jobs would be or have been supported from direct spending on the project, such as those pipe makers in Arkansas. But '42,000 new jobs' is going too far. Most of those jobs are far from the construction site, and it's hard to argue they are new. Moreover, under State's accounting, they only last for a year. For some workers, it would be a good but brief payday. In the context of the U.S. economy, the impact is barely a ripple." [[Washington Post, 1/6/15](#)]

PolitiFact: TransCanada CEO's Claim That Keystone XL Would Create 42,000 Jobs "Ongoing, Enduring" Jobs Was False; When Confronted With The Fact-Check, He Acknowledged That The "Actual Operating Jobs Top Out At 50." On November 16, 2014, PolitiFact investigated a claim by TransCanada's CEO that the Keystone XL pipeline would create 42,000 "ongoing, enduring" jobs. While appearing on ABC's This Week with Martha Raddatz, TransCanada CEO Russ Girling "cited TransCanada's estimates for 9,000 total positions, and Raddatz countered with estimates from the U.S. State Department, which is tasked with a recommendation on the project to President Barack Obama because it crosses international borders ... Girling conceded that actual operating jobs top out at 50, but he said "that doesn't include all of the other jobs that come with it" ... Girling shrugged off Raddatz's point that an estimated 42,000 jobs supported by the Keystone XL pipeline would only last for two years, saying 'no, the 42,000 jobs is in ongoing, enduring jobs.' That description does not apply to 99 percent of the direct, indirect and induced jobs supported by the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project, which are temporary and would not last for more than two years. A spokesman for Girling acknowledged this fact. We rate his statement False." [PolitiFact, [11/16/14](#)]

Fact: Economy is creating jobs

U.S. Economy Added 271,000 Jobs In October 2015; Unemployment Rate Dropped To 5 Percent, Its Lowest Point In Nearly Eight Years. The economy is creating hundreds of thousands of jobs each month. In fact, today, on November 6, 2015, the Department of Labor announced October was the "most robust month of job growth in 2015, with total nonfarm employment increasing by 271,000." Additionally, the unemployment rate dropped to 5 percent "and has not been lower since February of 2008." [[U.S. Department of Labor, 11/6/15](#)]

With October 2015's Report Showing 271,000 New Jobs, The U.S. Has Experienced 68 Consecutive Months Of Private Sector Job Growth. On November 6, 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor released a report which showed that the American economy had added 281,000 total nonfarm jobs in October 2015, "the most robust month of job growth" during the calendar year. In fact, "private employers have now added 13.5 million jobs over 68 straight months of growth, the longest such streak on record." [[U.S. Department of Labor, 11/6/15](#)]

Fact: Keystone XL pipeline would not have lowered gas prices for consumers

As The President Noted, National Average Gas Prices Have Been Declining For Three Years, And Are Down Nearly \$0.77 From Over A Year Ago. On November 6, 2015, President Obama said, "The [Keystone XL] pipeline would not lower gas prices for American consumers. In fact, gas prices have already been falling—steadily. The national average gas price is down about 77 cents over a year ago. It's down a dollar over two years ago. It's down \$1.27 over three years ago. Today, in 41 states, drivers can find at least one gas station selling gas for less than two

bucks a gallon. So while our politics have been consumed by a debate over whether or not this pipeline would create jobs and lower gas prices, we've gone ahead and created jobs and lowered gas prices." Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration supports this claim. [[CSPAN](#), 11/6/15; [EIA](#), 11/6/15]

EIA Report: Majority Of Crude Oil Transported By Keystone XL Pipeline Would Be Exported Through Ports On The Gulf Coast. In March 2015, the U.S. Energy Information Administration released a report which supported President Obama's claim that the "Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is primarily about export. Politico reports that refineries in Port Arthur and Houston - which would be the primary recipients of crude oil delivered by the Keystone XL pipeline - exported over 60% of their refined product in 2014." In addition, EIA's data "clearly discredits an unsubstantiated claim by industry consultancy IHS that the vast majority - as much as 70% - of the refined product from Keystone XL would stay in the United States." [NRDC, [3/12/15](#)]

Fact: Keystone XL pipeline would have increased carbon pollution, and negatively impacted our environment

Keystone XL Pipeline Would Increase Carbon Pollution. According to the NRDC, "Because of its silty composition, mining and refining tar sands oil demands an enormous amount of energy -- much more than conventional crude. Keystone XL would ramp up tar sands production, requiring even more energy and creating greater carbon pollution: the equivalent of Americans driving an unthinkable 60 billion extra miles every year." [[NRDC](#), accessed 11/6/15]

Washington Post: Keystone Pipeline Would Transport 830,000 Barrels Of Oil per Day – The Equivalent Of Adding Up To 5.5 Million Cars On The Road. On January 31, 2014, the [Washington Post](#) reported, "The 830,000 barrels of oil that the pipeline would transport each day would add an extra 1.3 million to 27.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. That's a whole lot of carbon — it's like putting an extra 250,000 to 5.5 million cars on the road." [[Washington Post](#), [1/31/14](#)]

Fact: Renewing the Production Tax Credit Would Add 30,000 Jobs

Investing In Renewable Energy – By Renewing The Production Tax Credit – Would Add Nearly 30,000 Well-Paying Jobs, And \$23 Billion Into The Economy. According the American Wind Energy Association, "Extending the Production Tax Credit (PTC) and the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for the longest practical term will help grow our economy, benefit consumers, create jobs, improve our energy security and support a new U.S. manufacturing sector ... Unfortunately, the PTC/ITC was allowed to expire at the end of 2014, and Congress has yet to extend these critical tax credits. The PTC/ITC must be extended as soon as possible for as long as possible to prevent wind power from falling off a cliff like it has done in previous years when the policy was allowed to expire. Our economy lost \$23 billion and nearly 30,000 well-paying jobs the last time Congress did not provide wind power with policy stability, causing wind installations to drop 92 percent the following year." [AWEA, [accessed 11/6/15](#)]