



January 12, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Reid,

The Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) represents contractors, suppliers and manufacturers who provide construction services including installation, replacement and rehabilitation of natural gas pipelines, water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as fiber optic, cable and duct systems in communities across the country. At long last the United States Senate will debate and vote on the Keystone Pipeline, and DCA strongly encourages you to support the Keystone XL Pipeline Act (S. 1).

As shown in poll after poll, the Keystone XL project continues to be supported by the vast majority of Americans, recently by nearly 75% of voters, both Democrat and Republican. However, after six years and despite five federal reviews concluding the safety of the pipeline and the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the White House continues to delay making a final decision about Keystone's construction.

Keystone XL will support more than 42,000 good, high paying jobs, increase supplies of Canadian and American crude to U.S. refiners, and therefore further bolster American economic and energy security. Many of these jobs will be in the construction sector. Although the unemployment rate continues to fall, the unemployment in the construction sector remains above 8 percent. DCA supports policy that makes the most of North American energy resources while putting the American construction industry to work. Construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline will do just that.

In addition to supporting tens of thousands of jobs, the Obama State Department has concluded that project would contribute about \$3.4 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). As a result, state and local governments will enjoy increased tax revenues that come with increased economic activity.

Keystone XL will bring an extra 830,000 barrels of oil to U.S. refineries every day, enhancing our national security by decreasing dependence on energy sources from often unstable parts of the world while strengthening our relationship with a neighboring ally.

The time for playing politics is over. DCA strongly encourages the Senate to pass the Keystone XL Pipeline Act as soon as possible. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Darden
Executive Vice President