
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8018

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Holmquist Newbry, Benton, Sheldon, and Stevens

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE
5 GREGOIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The United States relies, and will continue to rely for
10 many years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel despite the recent focus
11 on renewable and alternative sources of energy; and

12 WHEREAS, In order to fuel our economy, the United States will need
13 more oil and natural gas while also requiring additional alternative
14 energy sources; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States currently depends on foreign imports for
16 more than half of its petroleum usage, and is the largest consumer of
17 petroleum in the world; United States dependence on overseas oil has
18 created difficult geopolitical relationships with potentially damaging
19 consequences for our national security; and

1 WHEREAS, Oil deposits in the Bakken Reserves of Montana, North
2 Dakota, and South Dakota are an increasingly important crude oil
3 resource with an estimated 11 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil,
4 and there is not enough pipeline capacity for crude oil supplies from
5 Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas to American
6 refineries; and

7 WHEREAS, Canadian oil reserves contain an estimated 173 billion
8 barrels of recoverable oil, and Canada is the single largest supplier
9 of oil to the United States at 2.62 million barrels per day and has the
10 capacity to significantly increase that rate; and

11 WHEREAS, The Keystone XL pipeline will, when completed, carry
12 700,000 barrels per day of North American crude oil to American
13 refineries in the Gulf Coast region; and

14 WHEREAS, Construction of the project will create 20,000 jobs
15 nationwide, including construction and manufacturing jobs, create 20
16 billion dollars in economic growth, and generate 3 billion dollars of
17 government receipts; and

18 WHEREAS, A recent study by the United States Department of Energy
19 found that increasing delivery of crude oil from Montana, North Dakota,
20 South Dakota, and Alberta, Canada, as well as Texas and Oklahoma, to
21 American refineries has the potential to substantially reduce our
22 country's dependency on sources outside of North America; and

23 WHEREAS, Canada sends more than ninety-nine percent of its oil
24 exports to the United States, the bulk of which goes to Midwestern
25 refineries; oil companies are investing huge sums to expand and upgrade
26 refineries in the Midwest and elsewhere to make gasoline and other
27 refined products from Canadian oil derived from oil sands; and the
28 expansion and upgrade projects will create many new construction jobs
29 over the next five years; and

30 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of the money used to buy Canadian oil will
31 likely later be spent directly on United States goods and services in
32 contrast with increasing the trade relationship with unstable regions,
33 and, therefore, supporting the continued shift towards reliable and
34 secure sources of North American oil is of vital interest to the United
35 States and the state of Washington; and

36 WHEREAS, The Keystone XL pipeline is critical to jobs and energy
37 independence for the citizens of Washington as well as all other

1 states, and it is therefore fitting and proper that the legislature
2 call upon the federal government to immediately address this issue;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectively pray that the United
4 States Congress and the Administration support continued and increased
5 development and delivery of oil from Canada to the United States, and
6 that the President of the United States approve the Keystone XL
7 pipeline project that has been awaiting a presidential permit since
8 2008 to ensure America's oil independence, improve our national
9 security, reduce the cost of gasoline, create new jobs, and strengthen
10 ties between the United States and Canada.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
13 States, the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of
14 Washington, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
16 State of Washington.

--- END ---