



February 11, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As a fourth-generation Oklahoman, I know the importance of the oil and gas industry to the state of Oklahoma and the broader region. I write to urge you to reconsider your decision to revoke the cross-border permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. Killing Keystone does no tangible good and, both from my experience and from looking at the data, it will cause much harm.

I have worked in the oil and gas industry at almost every level. First, as a roustabout in college to help pay my way through school, then as an attorney in the private sector, and later as general counsel to the state's oil and gas regulator. Now, as attorney general of Oklahoma, one of my most important responsibilities is protecting the state's economic activities from unlawful federal intrusion.

Oil and gas production employs thousands in Oklahoma and throughout the region, pumps millions of dollars into local economies and creates billions of dollars in economic activity. The same is true for many states across the country. Those economic realities show why ending the Keystone XL Pipeline is a bad policy for America.

In several states, Keystone has led to thousands of good-paying jobs, now about to be snuffed out with a stroke of a pen. In Oklahoma specifically, Keystone increases the transport of oil to Cushing, one of the largest transshipment and oil storage locations in the world.

Lawmakers introducing legislation to mandate continuation of the project estimate the pipeline would create 11,000 "direct high-paying jobs" and "up to 60,000 indirect and direct jobs." By revoking Keystone's permit, you are relegating these same workers to the unemployment line, when our country can ill afford to strain our already overstressed unemployment system.

On your first day on the job, you claimed your revocation of the permit for the Keystone pipeline was because it undermines U.S. climate leadership. In reality, canceling the expansion not only undermines job growth, but it also negatively impacts health and human safety, because a pipeline is a far better and safer way to transport crude oil than freight. It also ignores painstaking measures Keystone takes to comply with environmental-safety rules.

Under President Barack Obama, the State Department published an environmental impact report in 2014 that says the pipeline expansion wouldn't have a serious or even substantial impact on greenhouse-gas emissions. According to the impact report, the State Department said it expected extraction of oil in Canada and changes to the environment "regardless of any potential effects" from the Keystone XL project.

Crushing the pipeline-expansion project will thus only force companies to adopt riskier modes of transporting crude oil, like trucks and rail service. Unfortunately, our communities are all-too-familiar with these risks, such as those in West Virginia who remember the 14 tankers that derailed six years ago. These forms of transportation also increase emissions.

To anyone truly interested in optimizing health and human safety for the American people and our friends in Canada, as well as protecting the environment and promoting well-paying jobs, supporting Keystone XL is a no-brainer, as the pipeline reduces the amount of crude oil on our highways and railroads. Even under your supposed priorities, in total, 10,000 union jobs will be lost because of your executive order, as well as \$500 million allocated for indigenous suppliers and a \$10 million fund for green jobs training.

These reasons and more show why working-class Americans who voted for you are the ones who will suffer most if you focus on an ideological, rather than fact-based, climate agenda—one that favors dubious policy rationales over the real and immediate needs of Americans.

It is my hope, and the hope of a great many elected officials and countless hard-working Americans, that you will reverse your position and allow construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline to continue.

Respectfully,



Mike Hunter

OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL

cc: Brook A. Simmons, President, The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma
Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr., Chairman, Oklahoma Energy Producers Alliance
Chad Warmington, President and CEO, Oklahoma State Chamber