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**Statement of Environment Subcommittee Chairman Chris Stewart (R-Utah)  
Hearing on “Keystone XL Pipeline: Examination of Scientific and Environmental Issues”**

**Chairman Stewart:** The subject of today’s hearing, construction of the XL pipeline, is of profound economic and national security interest.

The proposed pipeline has been under continuous review for more than four years. Let’s think about that for a moment. More than four years. That’s about the length of time it took for the United States to fight and win WWII. You can complete a university degree in four years. A large portion of the transcontinental railroad was built in four years. We can do a lot of things in four years. The only thing we can’t do is to get this Administration to make a decision about building a much-needed pipeline.

During the past four years, as this project has been studied, we have learned that the pipeline is safe and environmentally sound. We also know it will create jobs and that it promotes energy security. In fact, in 2010, then-Secretary of State Clinton signaled as much when she said that the State Department was likely to approve the project. That, of course, sparked an outcry from the Administration’s environmental allies, resulting in politically driven delay, and additional review – all of which came at considerable expense and further loss of economic opportunity.

The comment period on the State Department’s most recent Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, or SEIS, closed just last month. In that report the State Department found that:

- The proposed project is safe. It uses state of the art materials, coating, construction practices, and monitoring systems. The State Department SEIS goes on to say that the pipeline would be one of the safest pipelines ever built or operated.
- In regard to its effects on the environment, the Department found “that there would be no significant impacts.” And because the project will have little or no impact on oil sands production – the Canadian oil will be brought to market whether or not the Keystone pipeline is built – effects on carbon emissions would be negligible.

And while the Environmental Protection Agency claims that over a 50-year period the additional emissions “could be as much as 935 million metric tons” of greenhouse gases, this is far less than one percent of global emissions. As Paul Knappenberger of the Cato Institute will tell us today, even using EPA’s worst case scenario assumptions, the effect of the pipeline would only increase the rate of warming by an imperceptible one one-hundred-thousandth of a degree per year.

In regard to jobs, the State Department estimates that the pipeline would have significant positive socioeconomic impacts in the form of local employment, increased tax revenues, ancillary business development and increased spending by workers on goods and services.

As the Department states in the SEIS, “the proposed Project would potentially support approximately 42,100 average annual jobs across the United States...This employment would potentially translate to approximately \$2.05 billion in earnings.”

And there is also this important point: the President frequently urges us to reduce our reliance on foreign oil from unstable, undemocratic regimes that are unfriendly to U.S. interests. As a former Air Force pilot, I have personal knowledge of how important it is to reduce our reliance on sources of energy that emanate from instable and unpredictable areas of the world. If you want to enhance our national security, while decreasing the need to put our sons and daughters in harms way in far off regions of the world, then build the Keystone pipeline.

Finally, building the pipeline will allow us to increase our trading relationship with Canada, a stable and friendly democracy with whom we share a long and peaceful border.

In short, the pipeline is in the national interest. There is no logical reason not to allow it to move forward.

I now recognize the gentlelady from Oregon, ranking Member Bonamici, for her opening statement.

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