Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

In June of this year, dozens of members of the House of Representatives sent you a letter expressing serious concern regarding the permitting process for TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline. Since then, we have become increasingly concerned that the State Department is inadequately evaluating the pipeline's lifecycle environmental impact. We urge the State Department to undertake a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Keystone XL project in order to ensure that an objective evaluation is conducted.

We are concerned about your recent comments that the State Department is "inclined to approve" the project, given the significant criticism the State's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has generated. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found the State Department's assessment to be inadequate and asked that a new EIS be conducted. In fact, EPA gave the draft EIS its lowest possible rating.

The Keystone XL pipeline poses a number of major environmental and public health hazards. Not only does tar sands oil have a higher lifecycle for greenhouse gas emissions, but it also has an environmentally destructive extraction process and environmentally precarious transportation system. Given the environmental sensitivity of building an oil pipeline across many of our nation's most economically and environmentally important aquifers, natural lands, and wetlands, we believe that the State Department should heed EPA's recommendations.

The decision of several Canadian provinces to condemn Alberta's push to construct a tar sands pipeline only adds to the serious environmental concerns with this project. We share these environmental concerns with this proposed project and request that State Department carefully consider the environmental and climate repercussions of the project. We urge you to honor the recommendations of the EPA and conduct a SEIS with a public comment period for the Keystone XL project.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jay Inslee
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

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John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

David Wu
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

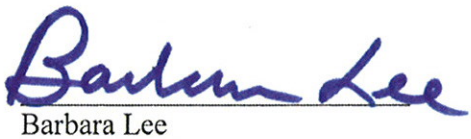
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

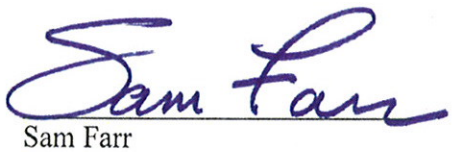
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

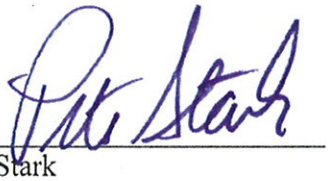
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



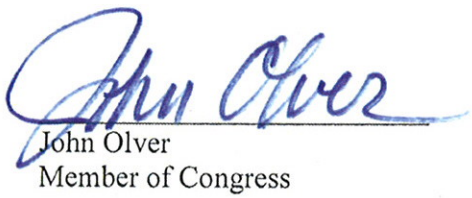
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



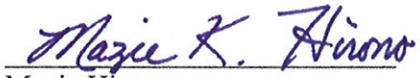
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



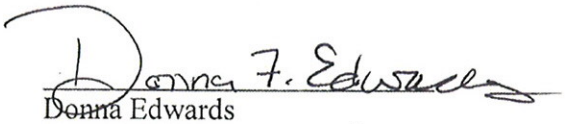
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



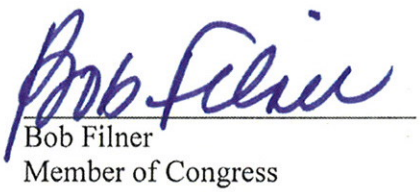
John Olver
Member of Congress



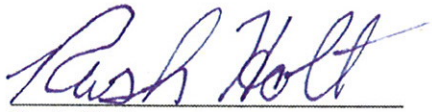
Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress



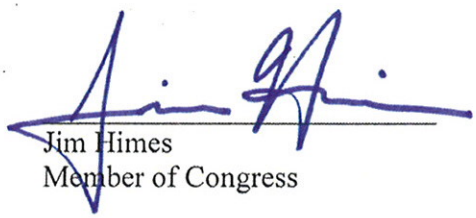
Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Addendum

George Miller
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

David Price
Member of Congress