



**GREG BROPHY**  
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STATE OF COLORADO  
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*Ranking member of:*  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

December 3, 2012

Director Mike Linder  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
1200 N Street, Suite 400  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509

**RE: Draft Evaluation Report on the Keystone XL Pipeline**

Dear Director Linder:

I strongly support TransCanada's revised route through Nebraska, and I concur with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) draft evaluation that the proposed re-route of the Keystone XL pipeline through Nebraska appropriately addresses all concerns raised by Nebraskans and meets or exceeds all environmental, social, and economic standards. Now that the DEQ and TransCanada have confirmed the safety of this proposed pipeline, I urge the DEQ to promptly finalize its assessment and allow Governor Heineman to approve this route. Swift action now will allow the U.S. Department of State to permit the full project as expeditiously as possible.

With regard to the environmental impact of the pipeline, the re-route process has clearly and effectively resolved its principal purpose: the avoidance of the environmentally sensitive Sand Hills region and the assurance that the pipeline will not harm the local environment.

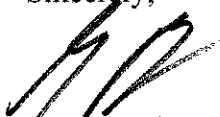
DEQ and TransCanada's additional steps to reach out to the public to determine and resolve concerns further demonstrate the thoroughness of this evaluation and the regulators' and operator's dedication to safety. Of note, DEQ affirmed the previous finding of the U.S. Department of State's evaluation that the crude destined for transport in Keystone XL is physically and chemically similar to other types of crude oil carried in U.S. pipelines and should therefore not be a cause for concern.

I support TransCanada for taking the necessary steps to mitigate impact during construction and to ensure that restoration of disturbed areas occurs swiftly and effectively. Nebraskans should take comfort in knowing that TransCanada has addressed and will continue to address all landowner concerns in a fair and timely manner, including concerns about potential disruption to agricultural production. Finally, I applaud DEQ for its thorough evaluation of environmental justice concerns and am reassured by its finding that the project will have "no disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups."

The draft evaluation additionally confirms that the Keystone XL project will have positive economic benefits for Nebraskans, including significant job and revenue creation. These conclusions align with several other third-party evaluations that show the Keystone XL project will be a boon for laborers and governments along the pipeline's corridor.

This draft evaluation clearly demonstrates a strong attention to detail and a dedication to process and transparency by the DEQ. At this time, I strongly encourage the Nebraska DEQ to finalize this draft evaluation and send to Governor Heineman for approval. Nebraska and the United States stand to benefit significantly from the energy security and economic benefits that this project will bring, and I look forward to its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GB', written over a horizontal line.

Greg Brophy  
State Senator

Cc: Nebraska Governor Heineman