



Keystone Decision Past Due

An Obama Insider Joins A Growing List Who Support An Overdue Keystone Pipeline

WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANSWER ON KEYSTONE IS LONG OVERDUE, A FORMER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL CALLS FOR ITS APPROVAL

Former Obama National Security Advisor Tom Donilon: I Would Recommend That Obama Approve Keystone Pipeline. WALTER ISAACSON: "I know you're not in the administration anymore, so maybe you could answer. Would you recommend for the keystone pipeline if you were there?" DONILON: "You know, I would." (Tom Donilon, [Remarks At Aspen Institute Forum](#), Washington, D.C., 1/7/14)

The White House Has Failed "So Far To Approve The Keystone XL Pipeline From Alberta To Nebraska, Which Would Help Carry Crude From Canada To United States Refineries On The Gulf Coast." "Officials say the White House's failure so far to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline from Alberta to Nebraska, which would help carry crude from Canada to United States refineries on the Gulf coast, has dampened the faith of prime minister Stephen Harper in deeper North American integration: Canada is looking across the Pacific for oil markets." ("Ready To Take Off Again?" *The Economist*, 1/4/14)

AS THE DECISION TO BUILD KEYSTONE HAS BEEN DELAYED INTO THE NEW YEAR, OBAMA HAS FACED CRITICISM FOR PUNTING AND "RUNNING OUT THE CLOCK"

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper: Obama Has "Punted" On Keystone. "'He's punted,' Harper said of Obama in an interview at an event today hosted by the Vancouver Board of Trade. 'He said, 'Maybe.'" (Andrew Mayeda And Christopher Donville, "Harper Says Obama Punting Won't Stop Keystone XL," [Bloomberg](#), 1/6/14)

Bloomberg Headline: "Harper Says Obama Punting Won't Stop Keystone XL" (Andrew Mayeda And Christopher Donville, "Harper Says Obama Punting Won't Stop Keystone XL," [Bloomberg](#), 1/6/14)

- **"Harper Said He Still Hopes The Obama Administration 'Will In Due Course See Its Way To Take The Appropriate Decision.'"** (Andrew Mayeda And Christopher Donville, "Harper Says Obama Punting Won't Stop Keystone XL," [Bloomberg](#), 1/6/14)

ABC's Jon Karl To White House Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest: Is Obama Trying To "Run Out The Clock" On Keystone And Use A "Pocket Veto" By Delaying Approval? "ABC's JON KARL: "Josh, I wasn't even going to ask about Keystone, but what's taking so long for this decision?" PRINCIPAL

DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST: "Well, I mean --" KARL: "I mean, this has been going on for years. Why are we still--" EARNEST: "It has. Well, there have been a couple of times where the process got upended because of concerns that were raised by the Republican governor of Nebraska and the route that had been proposed." KARL: "Yes, that's ancient history, too." EARNEST: "Well, but you said it's going on for years, and that's one of the things that slowed down the process. So I think that demonstrates the commitment of the administration to get this right. It demonstrates that there are people in both parties who have a range of views on this topic. And what the State Department is doing is they're reaching a determination of national interest." KARL: "Is this a pocket veto? Is this basically like run out the clock?" EARNEST: "That's not something that should be taken lightly. It certainly isn't taken lightly by the President or his administration." KARL: "So you're not running out the clock? Because if you delay and then you don't make a decision, it doesn't get built, you know?" EARNEST: "That's not how I'd characterize the ongoing policy process." (White House [Press Briefing](#), Washington, DC, 12/11/13)

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DESPITE THE DELAYS, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, DEMOCRAT LAWMAKERS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS SUPPORT KEYSTONE

Americans Continue To Strongly Support Keystone

Bloomberg Headline: "Keystone Backed In Poll By 56% Of Americans As Energy Security" (Jim Snyder, "Keystone Backed In Poll By 56% Of Americans As Energy Security," [Bloomberg](#), 12/12/13)

"More Americans View The Keystone XL Oil Pipeline As A Benefit To U.S. Energy Security Than As An Environmental Risk." "More Americans view the Keystone XL oil pipeline as a benefit to U.S. energy security than as an environmental risk, even as they say Canada should do more to reduce greenhouse gases in exchange for approval of the project." (Jim Snyder, "Keystone Backed In Poll By 56% Of Americans As Energy Security," [Bloomberg](#), 12/12/13)

Bloomberg Poll: 56 Percent Of Americans View The Keystone Pipeline As A Chance To Reduce Dependence On Oil Imports. "A Bloomberg National Poll shows support for the \$5.4 billion link between Alberta's oil sands and U.S. Gulf Coast refineries remains strong, with 56 percent of respondents viewing it as a chance to reduce dependence on oil imports from less reliable trading partners. That compares with the 35 percent who say they see it more as a potential source of damaging oil spills and harmful greenhouse gas emissions." (Jim Snyder, "Keystone Backed In Poll By 56% Of Americans As Energy Security," [Bloomberg](#), 12/12/13)

- **61 Percent Of Americans Think The Administration Has Delayed A Decision On Keystone Because Of Potential Political Problems Rather Than On "Legitimate Concerns" On Carbon Emissions.** "The poll also asked respondents why they think the administration has yet to make a decision on the pipeline. More than twice as many -- 61 percent versus 28 percent -- blame the delay in approving the pipeline on potential political problems it would create with environmental groups rather than on 'legitimate concerns' about an increase in carbon emissions." (Jim Snyder, "Keystone Backed In Poll By 56% Of Americans As Energy Security," [Bloomberg](#), 12/12/13)

Democratic Lawmakers Support The Keystone Pipeline

In March 2013, 17 Senate Democrats Voted For An Amendment That Sought To Approve The Construction Of The Keystone Pipeline. ([S. Amdt. 494 To S. Con. Res. 8](#), Adopted 62-37: R 45-0; D 17-35; I 0-2, 3/22/13)

19 House Democrats Voted In Favor Of The Northern Route Approval Act To Approve

Construction Of The Keystone XL Pipeline. (H.R. 3, [Roll Call Vote #179](#), Passed 241-175; R 222-0; D 19-175, 5/22/13)

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT): “Enough Analysis: It’s Time To Put Montanans To Work On Keystone.”

“‘Enough analysis: it’s time to put Montanans to work on Keystone. Four and a half years after the Keystone pipeline was first proposed, we need the jobs and the energy independence it provides more than ever,’ said Baucus, whose bill builds on momentum following a fourth favorable State Department environmental review indicating ‘no significant impact to the environment.’” (Sen. Max Baucus, [Press Release](#), 4/16/13)

- **Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT): “There Is Absolutely No Reason We Cannot Start Putting Montanans To Work On The Keystone XL Pipeline Right Away.”** (Alexander Bolton, “GOP Wants Sen. Baucus To Go Rogue On Keystone XL Oil Sands Pipeline,” [The Hill](#), 1/29/12)
- **Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT): “The Keystone Pipeline Will Create Montana Jobs And It Should Not Have To Wait 14 Months For An Up-Or-Down Decision...”** (“Baucus, Tester Support Keystone XL, But Not GOP Bill,” [www.ktvq.com](#), 11/30/11)
- **Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV): “It’s Simply Common Sense That America Has A Lot To Gain By Opening Up This Pipeline Because It Not Only Addresses Energy Security, But Is Helps Create Thousands Of Jobs Right Here At Home.”** (Sen. Joe Manchin, [Press Release](#), 2/15/13)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) Said “I Support The Pipeline.” “‘I think people care very much about the price of gas,’ said Senator Claire McCaskill, a Democrat facing a tough re-election battle in Missouri. ‘I support the pipeline,’ she said. ‘I disagree with it being used as a political football.’” (Jennifer Steinhauer, “For G.O.P., Pipeline Is Central To Agenda,” [The New York Times](#), 2/1/12)

- **McCaskill: “Now I Think It’s Time To Put This On Speed Warp In Terms Of Approval, Because Clearly The Jobs That Would Come About With The Building Of This Pipeline Are Jobs That We Needed Yesterday.”** (Rachel Lippmann, “McCaskill Calls For Quick Approval Of Keystone XL Oil Pipeline,” [St. Louis Public Radio](#), 7/18/12)

Former Democratic Governor Brian Schweitzer “Strongly Supports” The Keystone Pipeline.

“Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D) is expressing frustration with the debate in Washington over the Keystone XL pipeline, which he strongly supports.” (Ben Geman, “Montana’s Democratic Governor Slams ‘Jackasses’ In DC For Keystone Delay,” [The Hill](#), 2/24/12)

- **Schweitzer Said Keystone Would Bring Jobs To Montana.** “Schweitzer, for his part, says the pipeline that would traverse Montana will bring jobs to the state. It’s also envisioned as a way to carry oil from growing production in Montana and North Dakota to market.” (Ben Geman, “Montana’s Democratic Governor Slams ‘Jackasses’ In DC For Keystone Delay,” [The Hill](#), 2/24/12)

Senators Kay Hagan (D-NC), Max Baucus (D-MT), And Jon Tester (D-MT) Co-Signed A Letter To Obama After The 2012 Election Pleading With Him To Put Politics Aside And Approve The Keystone Pipeline.

“Dear Mr. President: With the elections of 2012 behind us, we write to remind you of the continuing importance of the Keystone XL Pipeline. We want to work together to keep creating jobs, and Keystone XL is one vital piece of the puzzle. We would like to meet with you in the near future to discuss this important project. Setting politics aside: Nothing has changed about the thousands of jobs that Keystone XL will create. Nothing has changed about the energy security to be gained through an important addition to the existing pipeline network built with sound environmental stewardship and the best modern technology. Nothing has changed about the security to be gained from using more fuel produced at home and by a close and stable ally. And nothing has changed about the need for America to remain a place where businesses can still build things. We hope that you will follow through on your directive of March 22, 2012, to federal agencies to move forward vital energy infrastructure like Keystone

XL.” (Sen. Kay Hagan Et. Al., [Letter To President Obama](#), 11/16/12)

A Bipartisan Group Of Senators Have Asked The Administration To Not Delay A Decision On The Keystone Pipeline

A Bipartisan Group Of Senators Asked The Obama Administration Not To Delay A Decision On Keystone. “Four US senators asked the Obama administration not to delay a decision on the proposed Keystone XL crude oil pipeline’s cross-border permit because the US Department of State inspector general’s office is investigating the project’s draft supplemental environmental impact statement. An earlier DOS IG office investigation of the project’s original EIS for alleged conflicts of interest found none, Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND), Max Baucus (D-Mont.), John Thune (R-ND), and Mary L. Landrieu (D-La.) jointly observed on Aug. 29. Their request came 6 days after the IG’s office said the latest inquiry might not be finished until 2014, but would consider findings and recommendations from the earlier examination which were released in February 2012.” (Nick Snow, “Senators Urge Obama Not To Delay Keystone XL Decision Again,” [Oil & Gas Journal](#), 9/16/13)

“Deferring The Decision Until 2014 Would Extend The Administration’s Deliberations Into An Unprecedented Sixth Year, The Senators Noted.” (Nick Snow, “Senators Urge Obama Not To Delay Keystone XL Decision Again,” [Oil & Gas Journal](#), 9/16/13)

Business Leaders Have Encouraged Obama To Approve Keystone Pipeline

Warren Buffet Supports The Keystone Pipeline. “Billionaire Warren Buffett said this week he supports the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline, inserting himself in a politically divisive debate on the project.” (Andrew Restuccia, “Warren Buffet Backs Keystone Pipeline,” [The Hill](#), 5/8/12)

- **Buffet: “It Certainly Seems Like It Makes Sense To Me... There Are An Awful Lot Of Pipelines Running In The United States And Net, They’ve Certainly Been A Huge Plus For The Country.”** “‘I’m not an expert, but it certainly seems like it makes sense to me,’ Buffett said Monday when asked on Fox Business Network whether he would support the pipeline if it doesn’t threaten an environmentally sensitive region in Nebraska. ‘There are an awful lot of pipelines running in the United States and net, they’ve certainly been a huge plus for the country.’” (Andrew Restuccia, “Warren Buffet Backs Keystone Pipeline,” [The Hill](#), 5/8/12)

Oil & Gas Journal: “Three Major US Business Organizations Sent A Letter To US President Barack Obama Urging Him To Approve The Proposed Keystone XL Crude Oil Pipeline’s Cross-Border Permit.” “Three Major US Business Organizations Sent A Letter To US President Barack Obama Urging Him To Approve The Proposed Keystone XL Crude Oil Pipeline’s Cross-Border Permit. The Oct. 9 Letter Was Signed By 168 Business Leaders. ‘We are at an inflection point in our economic recovery,’ the letter from the US Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and Business Roundtable said. ‘Whether economic growth will remain modest or pick up speed will depend on maintaining investor confidence and strengthening America’s competitiveness. The decision on Keystone XL will affect both.’” (Nick Snow, “Business Leaders Urge Obama To Approve Keystone XL Permit,” [Oil & Gas Journal](#), 10/10/13)

President Of The US Chamber Of Commerce’s Institute For 21st Energy: “The American Business Community And An Overwhelming Majority Of Citizens Support The Keystone XL Pipeline.” “‘The American business community and an overwhelming majority of citizens support the Keystone XL pipeline,’ observed Karen A. Harbert, president of the US Chamber’s Institute for 21st Energy, as the letter was released on Oct. 10.” (Nick Snow, “Business Leaders Urge Obama To Approve Keystone XL Permit,” [Oil & Gas Journal](#), 10/10/13)