



How Much For A Keystone Delay?

Two Years Ago, Keystone's Application Was Resubmitted. But Today, Tom Steyer's Liberal Dollars Continue To Block A Decision

Two Years Ago, A New Application Was Submitted To The State Department For The Keystone Pipeline. "TransCanada, the company behind the disputed Keystone XL pipeline, submitted a new application for the project to the State Department on Friday, as expected. The company will route the pipeline around the environmentally sensitive Sand Hills region of Nebraska, and the revised proposal starts a fresh clock on the environmental review process." (Dan Frosch, "New Application Is Submitted For Keystone Pipeline," [The New York Times](#), 5/4/12)

- **In February This Year, Obama Reportedly Told Governors In A Closed Door Meeting That He Expected To Make A Decision On Keystone "In A Matter Of Months."** "President Obama told the nation's governors Monday that a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline could come in a matter of months, signaling he did not intend to let a recent court ruling derail his decision on whether to approve the much-debated project. The president's comments came during a question-and-answer session at the White House as part of the annual National Governors Assn. winter meeting. The session was private, but several participants said the president committed to making a decision in a matter of months." (Michael A. Memoli And Kathleen Hennessey, "Obama To Decide On Keystone Pipeline Within Months, Governors Say," [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/24/14)

But Just A Couple Of Weeks Ago, Obama "Pulled A Classic Campaign-Year Move" And "Punted" On Keystone. "The Obama administration pulled a classic campaign-year move Friday: It punted on the Keystone XL pipeline." (Andrew Restuccia, "Keystone Non-Decision Keeps Some Democrats On The Hot Seat," [Politico](#), 4/18/14)

According To A Report In *Rolling Stone*, Sources In The Administration Have Said Obama "Has All But Decided To Deny The Permit For The Pipeline." "Although no final decision has been made, two high-level sources in the Obama administration told me recently that the president has all but decided to deny the permit for the pipeline – a dramatic move that would light up Democratic voters and donors while further provoking the wrath of Big Oil." (Jeff Goodell, "Obama's Last Shot," [Rolling Stone](#), 4/23/14)

JUST A COINCIDENCE? ONE WEEK AFTER DELAYING KEYSTONE, LIBERAL DONORS, INCLUDING ANTI-KEYSTONE ACTIVIST TOM STEYER, MET TO DISCUSS FUNNELING MILLIONS TO DEMOCRATS

"Some Of The Deepest Pockets In The Democratic Donor World" Met In Chicago At A Conference "Designed To Help Them Decide Where To Channel Millions Of Political Dollars." "Some of the deepest pockets in the Democratic donor world are huddling, starting Sunday, in Chicago for a conference designed to help them decide where to channel millions of political dollars." (Lynn Sweet, "As Democratic Donors Gather In Chicago, GOP Takes Aim," [Chicago Sun-Times](#), 4/26/14)

- **Donors Gathered “Behind Closed Doors” At The Annual Meeting Of The Democracy Alliance, A “Secretive Club Of Wealthy Liberals.”** “Some of the country’s biggest Democratic donors — including Tom Steyer and Jonathan Soros — are huddling behind closed doors next week in Chicago with union bigwigs and progressive superstars like Bill de Blasio to plan how to pull their party — and the country — to the left. The setting is the annual spring meeting of the Democracy Alliance, a secretive club of wealthy liberals that’s the closest thing the left has to the vaunted Koch brothers’ political network.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

Tom Steyer Attended Last Week’s Democracy Alliance Meeting. “Some of the country’s biggest Democratic donors — including Tom Steyer and Jonathan Soros — are huddling behind closed doors next week in Chicago with union bigwigs and progressive superstars like Bill de Blasio to plan how to pull their party — and the country — to the left. The setting is the annual spring meeting of the Democracy Alliance, a secretive club of wealthy liberals that’s the closest thing the left has to the vaunted Koch brothers’ political network.” (Ken P. Vogel, “The Left’s Secret Club Plans For 2014, 2016,” [Politico](#), 4/24/14)

Steyer, A “Hedge-Fund-Trader-Turned-Anti-Keystone-Activist” Has Promised To “Leverage” His Personal Income For Democrats Who Oppose Keystone. “Good news for lawmakers who oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline: San Francisco billionaire Tom Steyer has got your back. Steyer, the hedge-fund-trader-turned-anti-Keystone-activist, pledged Thursday to leverage his largely self-funded super PAC to support members of Congress who come under attack for their opposition to the proposed Canada-to-Texas pipeline.” (Andrew Restuccia, “Steyer Vows To Aid Anti-Keystone Lawmakers,” [Politico](#), 4/17/14)

- **Steyer Has Pledged To Spend \$100 Million To Help Democrats In November And His Top Issue Is Stopping Keystone.** “But there are at least 100 million reasons why the president has held up the decision. Those reasons live in the bank account of hedge fund manager Tom Steyer who has pledged to spend \$100 million helping Democrats avoid disaster in a 2014 midterm election where their Senate majority is in serious jeopardy. Steyer’s No. 1 issue? Stopping the Keystone pipeline.” (Ben White, “Why Obama’s Keystone Opposition Reeks Of Politics,” [CNBC](#), 4/21/14)

THE LATEST KEYSTONE DELAY SHOWS THAT OBAMA IS WILLING TO PUT LIBERAL DONORS LIKE TOM STEYER FIRST

Obama’s Decision To Delay The Keystone Pipeline Decision Comes In The Face Of Expected “Depressed Democratic Turnout” And Possibly Alienating “The Party Base Of Liberal Voters.” “Friday’s decision could help the party avoid what is already expected to be a depressed Democratic turnout in November. Approval could have alienated the party base of liberal voters and environmental enthusiasts.” (Neela Banerjee and Lisa Mascaro, “Obama Administration Delays Keystone XL Pipeline Decision,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 4/18/14)

- **CNBC’s John Harwood: The Keystone Delay Is “100 Percent Politics” And It Is Not The Finest Hour For The Obama Administration.** JOHN HARWOOD: “On the other hand, they’ve got the donors, Tom Steyer you mentioned, others, you’ve got environmentally active voters in other places who they’re trying to get to turn out. Democrats have huge turnout problems in this election, Republican supporters have much more likely to show up. So I do think this is pretty much 100 percent politics in the delay of this decision. And it’s an administration that has got a couple years to go; they’re trying to prevent themselves from losing the Senate, you know, not get wiped out too badly in the House. And I think it’s kind of simple as that. It’s not the finest hour for the administration in terms of leadership.” (CNBC’s [Squawk Box](#), 4/21/14)

The Keystone Delay Was Seen By Strategists From Both Parties As A Move To “Boost Obama In The Eyes Of His Supporters.” “The State Department’s announcement on Friday that it would give

government agencies more time to study the project was seen by strategists from both parties as a move to prevent that and boost Obama in the eyes of his supporters. Support for the president, or lack of it, is generally reflected in mid-term voter turnout.” (Jeff Mason And Steve Holland, “Pipeline Delay Gives Boost To Obama’s Political Base,” [Reuters](#), 4/20/14)

CNBC’s Ben White: “[T]here Are At Least 100 Million Reasons Why The President Has Held Up The Decision. Those Reasons Live In The Bank Account Of Hedge Fund Manager Tom Steyer.” “But there are at least 100 million reasons why the president has held up the decision. Those reasons live in the bank account of hedge fund manager Tom Steyer who has pledged to spend \$100 million helping Democrats avoid disaster in a 2014 midterm election where their Senate majority is in serious jeopardy. Steyer’s No. 1 issue? Stopping the Keystone pipeline.” (Ben White, “Why Obama’s Keystone Opposition Reeks Of Politics,” [CNBC](#), 4/21/14)

- ***The Wall Street Journal* Editorial: “Tom Steyer’s Keystone Victory”** (Editorial, “Tom Steyer’s Keystone Victory,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 4/20/14)

DESPITE STEYER’S MILLIONS, SOME OF OBAMA’S OWN ALLIES ARE SAYING ENOUGH WITH THE DELAY ON KEYSTONE

North America’s Building Trades Union President Sean McGarvey: It’s “Unbelievable” That Keystone Is Left To “Linger.” “However, it’s not always economic factors that prevent projects from moving forward. For example, the Keystone XL pipeline has been held up by the government approval process since before the recession even began. Personally, it is unbelievable to me why this project is allowed to linger while our nation’s economy struggles to get back on track.” (Sean McGarvey, [House Natural Resources Committee Hearing](#), 4/29/14)

- **McGarvey: “[O]bama Has Placed Politics Over Substantive Policy That Only Serves To Advance The Agenda Of Well Funded Radical Environmentalists.”** “Despite this administration’s own findings that the Keystone project will result in significant economic benefits to our country, President Obama has placed politics over substantive policy that only serves to advance the agenda of well funded radical environmentalists.” ([Press Release](#), “Keystone XL Delay Is ‘Cold, Hard Slap In The Face’ To American Workers,” 4/21/14)

Terry O’Sullivan, President Of The Laborers International Union Of North America: “It’s Not The Oil That’s Dirty, It’s The Politics.” “The Laborers International Union of North America’s leader blasted the new delay. ‘It’s not the oil that’s dirty, it’s the politics,’ LIUNA Gen. Pres. Terry O’Sullivan said. ‘Once again, the administration is making a political calculation instead of doing what is right for the country. This certainly is no example of profiles in courage.’” (Nick Snow, “DOS Gives Federal Agencies More Time For Keystone XL Comments,” [Oil & Gas Journal](#), 4/19/14)

O’Sullivan: The Latest Keystone Delay Is “Another Gutless Move.” “This is once again politics at its worst. In another gutless move, the Administration is delaying a finding on whether the pipeline is in the national interest based on months-old litigation in Nebraska regarding a state level challenge to a state process -- and which has nothing to with the national interest. They waited until Good Friday, believing no one would be paying attention. The only surprise is they didn’t wait to do it in the dark of night.” (Terry O’Sullivan Statement, [LIUNA On Further Delay Of Keystone Recommendation](#), 4/18/14)