



Keystone Delays Continue

Obama's "Bargain" For The Middle Class Clearly Doesn't Include A Decision On The Keystone Pipeline And Its Thousands Of Jobs

THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SIGNALING THEY MAY AGAIN DELAY THE DECISION ON THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

The Hill: "The State Department's Decision On The Keystone XL Pipeline Is In Danger Of Being Pushed Into 2014." (Zack Colman, "Decision On Keystone In Danger Of Being Delayed Until 2014," [The Hill](#), 8/23/13)

- **Because Of An Internal Review, The State Department May Again Delay The Decision On Approving The Keystone XL Pipeline.** "State's internal watchdog on Friday said it won't complete until January a review of allegations that the department hired a contractor with a conflict of interest to review the pipeline project. It's unclear whether State would need to wait for its Office of Inspector General to release that report before deciding whether to recommend approval of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline. State did not return a request for comment from The Hill." (Zack Colman, "Decision On Keystone In Danger Of Being Delayed Until 2014," [The Hill](#), 8/23/13)

"The Conflict-Of-Interest Inquiry And The State Department's Review Of The Pipeline Have Been Ongoing, And State Has Not Yet Said When It Will Make A Final Determination On Keystone XL."

"The conflict-of-interest inquiry and the State Department's review of the pipeline have been ongoing, and State has not yet said when it will make a final determination on Keystone XL. But Friday's announcement that the OIG investigation results won't be released until January makes it likely that a decision on the project will be pushed back to 2014." (Clare Foran, "Final Decision On Keystone May Not Come Till 2014," [National Journal](#), 8/23/13)

The Pipeline Was Initially Scheduled For A Final Decision In 2012 But Was Pushed Back By The Obama Administration Over Environmental Concerns. "Any additional delays are sure to prompt an outcry from congressional Republicans, who have long accused the Obama administration of tying the project up in red tape as a concession to the Democratic party's environmental wing. The pipeline was initially scheduled for a final decision before the 2012 presidential election, but the administration pushed it back last year, saying at the time that the environmental consequences merited further inquiry." (Clare Foran, "Final Decision On Keystone May Not Come Till 2014," [National Journal](#), 8/23/13)

THE LATEST DELAY FOLLOWS OBAMA'S ONGOING DERISION OF KEYSTONE'S POTENTIAL

In An Interview With *The New York Times* In July, Obama Joked About The Potential Job Creation From The Keystone XL Pipeline. THE NEW YORK TIMES: "Keystone pipeline -- Republicans especially

talk about that as a big job creator. You've said that you would approve it only if you could be assured it would not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon in the atmosphere. Is there anything that Canada could do or the oil companies could do to offset that as a way of helping you to reach that decision?" PRESIDENT OBAMA: "Well, first of all, Michael, Republicans have said that this would be a big jobs generator. There is no evidence that that's true. And my hope would be that any reporter who is looking at the facts would take the time to confirm that the most realistic estimates are this might create maybe 2,000 jobs during the construction of the pipeline -- which might take a year or two -- and then after that we're talking about somewhere between 50 and 100 [chuckles] jobs in a economy of 150 million working people." (Jackie Calmes and Michael Shear, "Interview With President Obama," [The New York Times](#), 7/27/13)

- **Obama Derided The Thousands Of American Jobs That Keystone Will Create As A "Blip."**
NYT: "Yet there are a number of unions who want you to approve this." OBAMA: "Well, look, they might like to see 2,000 jobs initially. But that is a blip relative to the need. So what we also know is, is that that oil is going to be piped down to the Gulf to be sold on the world oil markets, so it does not bring down gas prices here in the United States. In fact, it might actually cause some gas prices in the Midwest to go up where currently they can't ship some of that oil to world markets. Now, having said that, there is a potential benefit for us integrating further with a reliable ally to the north our energy supplies." (Jackie Calmes and Michael Shear, "Interview With President Obama," [The New York Times](#), 7/27/13)

Only Days After His Interview With *The New York Times*, Obama Mocked The Keystone Pipeline As "Not A Jobs Plan." OBAMA: "But I've got to tell you, just gutting our environmental protection, that's not a jobs plan. Gutting investments in education, that's not a jobs plan. They keep on talking about this -- an oil pipeline coming down from Canada that's estimated to create about 50 permanent jobs -- that's not a jobs plan." (President Barack Obama, [Remarks On Jobs For The Middle Class](#), Chattanooga, TN, 7/30/13)

REALITY CHECK: According To The State Department, The Keystone Pipeline Would Help Support Tens Of Thousands Of Jobs. "Including direct, indirect, and induced effects, the proposed Project would potentially support approximately 42,100 average annual jobs across the United States over a 1-to 2-year construction period (of which, approximately 3,900 would be directly employed in construction activities). This employment would potentially translate to approximately \$2.05 billion in earnings. ("Keystone XL Project Draft Supplemental EIS Executive Summary," United States Department of State, 3/13, p.14)

- **The Washington Post's "Fact Checker": "The President Shouldn't Pick And Choose How He Cites Job-Creation Numbers. Perhaps He Is Tipping His Hand On What He Secretly Thinks Of The Keystone XL..."** "But the president shouldn't pick and choose how he cites job-creation numbers. Perhaps he is tipping his hand on what he secretly thinks of the Keystone XL by citing a low-ball figure, generated by the pipeline's opponents, but he should stick to using the official government estimate. (His 2,000-job figure is actually slightly lower than the Cornell estimate.) Otherwise, the president ironically seems to be signaling that even his own government does not produce the "most realistic" estimate that should be used by reporters." (Glenn Kessler, "President Obama's Low-Ball Estimate For Keystone XL Jobs," [The Washington Post](#), 7/30/13)

AFTER MONTHS OF LOBBYING, IS OBAMA CAVING TO HIS LIBERAL BASE – AND HIS OWN VICE PRESIDENT – ON KEYSTONE?

The Keystone XL Pipeline Has "Spawned A Massive Opposition Campaign Among The President's Liberal Base." "While the climate speech isn't likely to touch on the Keystone XL oil pipeline, the controversial project that has spawned a massive opposition campaign among the president's liberal base, it is expected to involve these measures: POWER PLANT CLAMPDOWN All eyes are on the EPA, the federal agency in charge of writing and implementing what are likely to be some of the most

controversial regulations in the president's second term: limiting carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants." (Andrew Restuccia, "Obama's Climate Plan Seen Putting Heat On Power Plants, Appliances," [Politico](#), 6/21/13)

In April, Members Of The House Sustainable Energy And Environment Coalition, A Liberal House Coalition, Met With A White House Aide To Pressure Obama To Deny A Permit For Keystone. "A group of House Democrats pressed the White House to reject the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline during a closed-door meeting with President Obama's top climate adviser. 'I think some messages were delivered. The occasion was used to deliver some concerns,' Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) told reporters after the Thursday meeting between White House aide Heather Zichal and the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC), which Connolly co-chairs." (Zack Colman, "Liberal Dems Press White House To Reject Keystone Pipeline," [The Hill](#), 4/11/13)

In April, Obama Attended A Fundraiser Hosted By Billionaire Green Energy Advocate Tom Steyer, In Which 100 Guests Paid Between \$5,000 and \$34,200 To Attend. "President Obama visited San Francisco Wednesday for a pair of campaign fundraisers in the Sea Cliff and Pacific Heights neighborhoods that were expected to raise millions of dollars for House Democrats. The visit drew protests from opponents of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and from Republicans, who slammed it as a jaunt to 'billionaires' row.' Obama appeared first at a cocktail reception at the Sea Cliff home of billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer and his wife, Kat Taylor, where about 100 guests paid \$5,000 to \$34,200 to attend the fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee." (Carla Marinucci and Drew Joseph, "Obama In San Francisco To Raise Funds," [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 4/4/13)

- **Steyer, A "Vociferous Opponent Of The Keystone Pipeline And Strong Supporter Of Climate Change Legislation" Tried To "Ease Concerns That Obama Wouldn't Keep The Issue At The Top Of His Agenda."** "Steyer, who is a vociferous opponent of the Keystone pipeline and a strong supporter of climate change legislation, appeared to try to ease concerns that Obama wouldn't keep the issue at the top of his agenda, as he has promised." (Carla Marinucci and Drew Joseph, "Obama In San Francisco To Raise Funds," [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 4/4/13)

Obama's Own Vice President Has Been Assuring Liberal Environmentalist That He Secretly Opposes Keystone Pipeline

At An Event In May, A Member Of The Sierra Club Said Joe Biden Told Her He Opposed The Keystone Pipeline. "Elaine Cooper, a member of the Sierra Club's South Carolina chapter, poses with Vice President Joe Biden at a fish fry hosted by Rep. Clyburn. Vice President Joe Biden told a South Carolina environmental activist Friday that he opposes a controversial oil pipeline from Canada, but said he is 'in the minority' inside the Obama administration, according to the activist's account of the conversation. Biden made the remark at Rep. Jim Clyburn's annual 'World Famous Fish Fry' Friday evening, where he met Elaine Cooper, a Columbia resident and group chair of the South Carolina chapter of the Sierra Club, while working the ropeline amongst hundreds of supporters in attendance." (Ruby Cramer, "Joe Biden Tells Supporter He Opposes Keystone Pipeline, But Is 'In The Minority'," [BuzzFeed](#), 5/7/13)

- **Biden Allegedly Responded To Questions From The Sierra Club By Claiming He Shares Their View On Opposing The Pipeline.** "An email obtained by BuzzFeed from the organization's national program assistant, Jessica Eckdish, provides Cooper's record of the encounter, in which she 'was able to ask Vice President Biden if he supporting [sic] rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline,' Eckdish writes. The email continues: 'Here's his response from Elaine: He grabbed my Sierra Club hat on my head and said, 'yes, I do — I share your views — but I am in the minority' and smiled.'" (Ruby Cramer, "Joe Biden Tells Supporter He Opposes Keystone Pipeline, But Is 'In The Minority'," [BuzzFeed](#), 5/7/13)

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND A MAJORITY OF DEMOCRATS, FAVOR BUILDING THE PIPELINE

“The Latest United Technologies/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll Finds That More Than Two-Thirds Of Respondents, 67 Percent, Support Building The Pipeline To Carry Canadian Oil To Refineries On The U.S. Gulf Coast; That Includes 56 Percent Of Democrats.” “The latest United Technologies/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll finds that more than two-thirds of respondents, 67 percent, support building the pipeline to carry Canadian oil to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast; that includes 56 percent of Democrats. Less than a quarter of Americans, 24 percent, oppose the project, the poll shows.” (Steve Sheppard, “Americans Support the Keystone XL Pipeline by Wide Margin,” [National Journal](#), 7/16/13)

- **According To A Pew Research Survey, 66 Percent Of Americans Favor The Keystone XL Pipeline, While Just 23 Percent Oppose It.** “As the Obama administration approaches a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, a national survey finds broad public support for the project. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) favor building the pipeline, which would transport oil from Canada’s oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas. Just 23% oppose construction of the pipeline.” (“Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Broad Support,” [Pew Research Center](#), 4/2/13)
- **“Support For The Pipeline Spans Most Demographic And Partisan Groups. Substantial Majorities Of Republicans (82%) And Independents (70%) Favor Building The Keystone XL Pipeline, As Do 54% Of Democrats.”** (“Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Broad Support,” [Pew Research Center](#), 4/2/13)

Even Congressional Democrats Are Calling On The President To Approve The Pipeline

In March, 17 Senate Democrats Voted To Approve The Keystone Pipeline. “The Senate on Friday voted 62-37 to approve the proposed Keystone XL oil sands pipeline in an amendment to Senate budget. ... All Republicans voted in favor. The Democrats who supported the measure were Sens. Max Baucus (Mont.), Mark Begich (Alaska), Michael Bennet (Colo.), Tom Carper (Del.), Bob Casey (Pa.), Chris Coons (Del.), Joe Donnelly (Ind.), Kay Hagan (N.C.), Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.), Tim Johnson (S.D.), Mary Landrieu (La.), Joe Manchin (W. Va.), Claire McCaskill (Mo.), Bill Nelson (Fla.), Mark Pryor (Ark.), Jon Tester (Mont.) and Mark Warner (Va.).” (Zack Coleman, “Keystone XL Picks Up Senate Backing,” [The Hill](#), 3/22/13)

- **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.” (Sen. Max Baucus, [Press Release](#), 4/16/13)

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)