

Dianne Feinstein

United States Senator for California

Dear Richard:

Thank you for writing to express your opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. I value hearing from you on this important issue, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

You may be interested to know that on March 22, 2013, the Senate voted on two Keystone XL-related amendments to the Senate Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 8). I joined 36 of my Senate colleagues to vote against an amendment introduced by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) that signaled support for the approval and construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Unfortunately, the amendment passed by a vote of 62-37. That same night, I voted in favor of an amendment introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) that proposed further analysis of the pipeline's economic and national security impacts. Despite my support, Senator Boxer's amendment failed by a vote of 33-66.

The Senate ultimately passed S. Con. Res. 8 with a 50-49 vote on March 23, 2013. It is important to note that a Budget Resolution is non-binding, meaning it does not have the effect of law because it is not signed by the President. Additionally, while the Hoeven amendment was included in the Senate Budget Resolution, the text does not mandate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline still requires the President's approval to move forward.

The President has not reached a decision whether to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline still requires the Secretary of State's approval of TransCanada's Presidential Permit application to move forward. On January 31, 2014, the State Department released a final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for TransCanada's May 4, 2012 application for the Keystone XL pipeline; this is part of the State Department's process to determine if granting a permit for the proposed pipeline is in the Nation's interest. The public comment period for the final SEIS closed on March 7, 2014 and the Department is still in the review process. I would also encourage you to visit the State Department's website for further information: <http://www.keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/>.

Please know that I am deeply concerned about the level of severe environmental destruction that is resulting from the development of tar sands. I appreciate hearing your concerns about the pipeline's approval, and I share your commitment to protecting our environment and addressing climate change. I will keep your comments in mind should the Senate consider additional legislation on the Keystone XL pipeline.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841 or visit my website at <http://feinstein.senate.gov>. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Further information about my position on issues of concern to California and the nation are available at my website, feinstein.senate.gov. And please visit my YouTube, Facebook and Twitter for more ways to communicate with me.