

## American Mayors' Letter to President Obama on Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline

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November 16, 2011

RELEASE IN FULL

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write you today as local government leaders who are gravely concerned that expansion of tar sands oil imports will increase our dependence on this high carbon fuel for decades to come. Expansion of high carbon fuels such as tar sands undermine hard work by local communities everywhere to fight climate change, reduce dependence on oil, and create a clean energy future. We ask that you do not grant a presidential permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would bring high carbon tar sands from Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Mayors from across the country wrote to Secretary of State Clinton about this pipeline project in March, 2011, asking her to address the many gaps that the Environmental Protection Agency identified in the environmental impact statement, and evaluate the project's impact on local community efforts to fight climate change and build clean energy economies. Unfortunately, however, the Final Environmental Impact Statement remains inadequate and does not address local community concerns.

This pipeline project not only undermines local community efforts to reduce oil use and fight climate change, it creates risks to critical American waters such as the Ogallala aquifer and over 1,000 rivers. Pipeline leaks are an immediate concern: the first Keystone pipeline has already experienced 30 leaks in the United States and Canada in its first year.

We want to work with your Administration to create solid and lasting energy and economic security, and this is best accomplished by lessening our dependence on oil. Deciding against expansion of U.S. dependence on tar sands fits into your commitment to mass transit improvements including a rail infrastructure that reduce reliance on oil. That is why we ask that you find that the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is not in the national interest and deny its permit. We look forward to continued partnership with you and the Administration in improving our nation's security through a clean energy future.

Sincerely,

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