

**Mayor of Des Moines * Mayor of Burlington * Mayor of Grand Rapids
Mayor of Santa Fe * Mayor of San Bernadino * Mayor of Racine
Mayor of Eugene * Mayor of Gainesville * Mayor of Salt Lake City
Mayor of Tallahassee * Mayor of North Little Rock * Mayor of Scranton
Mayor of Pleasanton * Mayor of Durham * Mayor of New Haven
Mayor of Richmond * Mayor of Berkeley Mayor of Madison * Mayor of West Sacramento
Mayor of Dubuque * Mayor of Fairfield * Mayor of Park City
Former Mayor of Seattle * Former Mayor of Gainesville * Former Mayor of Athens**

March 24, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madame Secretary,

We write you today as local government leaders who are gravely concerned about the prospect of expanded imports of tar sands oil from Canada. Specifically, we are concerned about the impacts of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would transport tar sands oil from Alberta to Texas, increasing our dependence on this high carbon fuel for decades to come at a time when we as local governments are working hard to decrease our dependence on oil. We are concerned that expansion of high carbon projects such as the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline will undermine the good work being done in local communities across the country to fight climate change and reduce our dependence on oil. We ask that the State Department issue a thorough and detailed supplemental environmental impact statement for the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline that evaluates the need and impacts of this pipeline, including on local community efforts to build clean energy economies.

In 2008, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a High Carbon Fuels Resolution calling for measures that discourage the use of tar sands fuel. We were concerned with the high toll that tar sands oil has on the environment – in the United States, in Canada and globally.

We understand that the State Department will make a decision in the coming weeks concerning review of the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. We strongly encourage you to carefully evaluate the pipeline's impacts and protect resources vital to our economic prosperity. It is important to carefully evaluate the pipeline risks and the risks of expansion of tar sands oil extraction, especially as the Keystone XL pipeline is being proposed at a time of pipeline overcapacity and is not necessary to meet current fuel needs.

In light of our concerns, we ask the State Department to prepare a thorough and detailed supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and provide the public an opportunity for review and comment. We are aware that the Environmental Protection Agency, numerous members of Congress and citizens alike have made similar requests, and we trust that you are considering them carefully.

Increasing our dependence on environmentally destructive, high-carbon fuels such as tar sands oil sends the wrong message to our communities and citizens who work hard to lessen our dependence on oil, using innovative conservation, efficiency and other measures. We remain committed to creating solid and lasting energy and economic security, and believe this is best accomplished by lessening our dependence on oil. 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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