

Comments Submitted to the Senate Utilities Committee  
In Support of HCR 5014  
February 13, 2014

Chairman Apple and members of the committee, thank you for providing the opportunity to submit comments in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5014.

As the committee can see, this resolution in support of the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline is a holdover from last session. The subject was timely then, and a year later remains at the forefront of national energy security.

Approval of the KXL pipeline has been delayed long enough. This resolution is part of a nationwide effort to show Washington that states support the pipeline and regard it as vital to the nation's interest, energy independence and the economy.

The U.S. State Department recently completed an exhaustive environmental assessment – the **fifth** in a series – that concluded the KXL is safe for the environment. The study found once again that the pipeline would not lead to a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions – a criterion President Obama identified as crucial to his administration's approval of the project.

The focus should turn to the numerous benefits a completed pipeline will bring to our nation. For example, with KXL, crude imports could reach 4 million barrels a day by 2030, twice what we currently import from the Persian Gulf. Along with other smart policies, the pipeline would allow the United States to meet 100 percent of our liquid fuel needs from stable North American sources within a decade.

Kansas was the first state with a completed link of the KXL. Known as the Cushing Extension, the pipeline runs from Steele City, Nebraska, south through Kansas to the oil hub in Cushing, Oklahoma. The pipeline segment is operational.

In a way, HCR 5014 is a continuation of public hearings held on September 26, 2011, at the Kansas Agricultural Hall in Topeka. The day-long hearings brought in many witnesses in support of the pipeline. Gov. Brownback appeared in person to support the pipeline. Legislative leaders and congressional representatives were present. Business interests, including the Kansas Chamber, as well as labor unions offered supportive comments. State legislators along the route provided samples of economic benefits to their small communities during the construction phase. The Kansas American Legion stood in support of the project.

Passage of this resolution is timely because the State Department has now opened up yet another round of public opinion on the pipeline. The resolution will put the Kansas Legislature firmly in support of KXL, just as the many public witnesses did two and a half years ago in Topeka.

Thanks you for your time and courtesy.

- Ken Peterson, executive director, Kansas Petroleum Council

