



# PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to  
North America's Energy & Agriculture Heartland



March 31, 2011

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

Dear Madam Secretary,

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully present the viewpoint of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance regarding the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline. Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of communities and businesses led by mayors, councilpersons and economic development officials from a ten-state, 2300-plus mile transportation and economic development corridor between Texas and Alberta, Canada.

We are committed to conservation and the development of alternative energy sources, however, America is going to need all energy sources – including oil and natural gas – for decades to come. Therefore it is necessary for the development of the traditional energy resources essential to our nation's energy security, including greater production of the world's second largest oil reserves, the Canadian oil sands. We firmly believe that the Keystone Pipeline will not only contribute to our national security by lessening our dependence on oil from unreliable foreign sources, but will also lead to job creation and growth.

The Keystone Pipeline project will be a tremendous benefit to our communities. According to the Canadian Energy Research Institute, it is anticipated that greater production of Canada's oil sands could create more than 340,000 new jobs between 2011 and 2015 in the United States. This will not only improve the standard of living of our constituents, but will significantly contribute much needed revenue to our city budgets. The oil and natural gas industry paid \$30 billion in land use fees alone, to federal, state and local governments in 2008 and 2009. This is over \$5 billion more than 2009 budgeted discretionary spending for the Department of Energy.

At a time of lingering economic turmoil here at home and increasing political instability worldwide, the manifold benefits of a major energy project like this cannot be overstated.

Rather than delay construction of the pipeline with further studies, we urge you to issue a final environmental impact statement on the project as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for giving our views careful consideration.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John Anderson  
Mayor, City of Plainview  
901 Broadway  
Plainview TX 79072

The Honorable Emsley Baker  
Mayor, City of New Deal  
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The Honorable John Baker  
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