

Comments Submitted to the House Energy and Environment Committee
In Support of HCR 5014
March 14, 2013

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

I am Ken Peterson, director of the Kansas Petroleum Council, part of a national trade association representing the oil and gas industry.

The resolution urges the White House and the U.S. State Department to approve the application for construction and operation of the Keystone XL Pipeline between Canada and the United States.

The 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 security, energy independence and economy. The Keystone XL just makes sense and should be approved without further delay.

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

On September 26, 2011, in Topeka, the U.S. State Department held public hearings on the pipeline. The day-long event was held at the Kansas Agricultural Hall, the art-deco building near the Capitol Plaza.

Witnesses in support of the pipeline were diverse and plentiful. Gov. Brownback appeared in person to back the pipeline. Legislative leaders and congressional representatives were present. Businesses, including the state Chamber, as well as labor offered supportive comments. Kansas legislators along the Cushing Link provided positive comments about local economic benefits during the construction phase. The Kansas American Legion stood in support of the pipeline.

In a way, HCR 5014 is a continuation of those hearings held almost one and a half years ago. It will put the Kansas Legislature firmly in support of the pipeline, just as the many private and public witnesses did in September of 2011 before delays in Washington set in and bureaucracy took control.

The fundamental reason for making the pipeline a reality is simple: does the United States want its oil from a friendly neighbor in Canada and from domestic sources, or does it want to continue to import higher-priced, tanker-borne foreign oil from sources that are not necessarily stable or friendly to our interests? Our answer rests in adoption of HCR 5014.

Thank you for your time and courtesy.

