



Industrial Energy Consumers of America
The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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January 17, 2012

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we urge you to approve the Keystone XL energy pipeline project. The development of the pipeline is in the national interest and would provide much needed jobs and a secure supply of oil. America needs these jobs. Since 2000, we have lost 5.5 million manufacturing jobs or 32 percent.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$700 billion in annual sales and with more than 650,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in our members' ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.

The Keystone XL project calls for the 1,700-mile expansion of an existing energy pipeline from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in the United States. Construction of the pipeline will directly employ some 20,000 workers and if indirect jobs are included, could result in more than 100,000 jobs. The nearly 1 million barrels of oil per day would go a long way to reduce our energy dependence on volatile nations.

Once again, we urge you to approve the Keystone XL energy pipeline project. We are running out of time. Canada is eager to do business with the United States, but if we continue to needlessly delay, they eventually will look to China and those jobs will go away.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President