



Nationwide Action Day Condemns Risky Canadian Dirty Oil Pipeline

Clean energy advocates, landowners, indigenous activists unite to say pipeline puts lives, environment and property in peril

Washington, D.C. (July 8, 2010) – Clean energy advocates, landowners, and indigenous activists are uniting today to condemn a proposed pipeline that would bring toxic tar sands oil from Canada to the U.S. in demonstrations, community events and meetings with government officials happening across the country.

(Media contact information for individual events provided below.)

About 100,000 Americans wrote the Obama administration urging it to stop the pipeline, called the Keystone XL, during a public comment period that closed July 2. Following a July 16 deadline for agency input, the administration will determine whether Canada's pipeline is in the "national interest." The administration's final permitting decision is expected this fall.

Concerned citizens are gathering today at Canadian consulates in Boston, New York, Seattle and Detroit, and demonstrating outside the Canadian embassy in Washington, D.C. to speak out against more dirty oil and for clean, safe energy alternatives.

"As the BP oil spill disaster shows, Big Oil cannot be trusted to ensure its practices are safe," said Larry Schweiger, president and CEO of NWF. "We cannot afford to bring the recklessness of the Gulf to the American heartland."

In states that would be crossed by the pipeline, including Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, citizens are holding events and meeting with their elected representatives who are home for the congressional recess.

A group of landowners whose property would be encroached upon by the pipeline is also in Washington, D.C. directly appealing to Obama administration officials and members of Congress to protect their farmland and livelihoods. TransCanada, the company seeking to build the pipeline, has applied for a safety waiver that would allow it to use thinner-than-normal steel.

Last month, NWF released the report, "Staying Hooked on a Dirty Fuel: Why Canadian Tar Sands are a Bad Bet for the United States" (available at www.nwf.org/tarsands). It looks at the dangers of tar sands development both to the Canadian and American environment, and global threat they pose because they emit higher greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil or gas.

Organizations sponsoring the day of action include Corporate Ethics International, Friends of the Earth, Indigenous Environmental Network, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

Event Contact Information:

Washington, D.C.

Location: 501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, across from the Canadian embassy
Speakers include: Actress and National Wildlife Federation board member Gloria Reuben and Friends of the Earth's president, Erich Pica
Contact: Kelly Trout, Friends of the Earth U.S., 202-222-0722 (office), 717-439-0346 (cell), kt trout@foe.org

Boston

Contact: Ben Wright, Environment Massachusetts, 617-747-4313 (office), 813-283-8034 (cell), ben@environmentmassachusetts.org

Detroit

Contact: Jesse Worker, Clean Water Action, 812-606-1748, jworker@cleanwater.org

Houston

Contact: Evelyn Merz, Sierra Club, 713-644-8228, elmerz@hal-pc.org

Lincoln, Nebraska

Contact: Jane Kleeb, 402-705-3622, eatingpolitics@gmail.com

New York City

Contact: Lauren Schuster, NY Public Interest Research Group, 347-729-4829, lschuster@nypirg.org

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact: Jessica Tatro, Sierra Club, 612-963-9642, jessica.tatro@sierraclub.org

Rapid City, South Dakota

Contact: Chas Jewett, 605-431-3594, chasjewett@gmail.com

Seattle

Contact: Robyn Carmichael, National Wildlife Federation, 206-285-8707 x. 110, carmichaelr@nwf.org

Sioux City, South Dakota

Contact: Pete Carrels, Sierra Club, 605-216-1233, peter.carrels@sierraclub.org

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The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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