



President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dan Utech
Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

April 20, 2016

Dear Mr. President,

The Dakota Access Pipeline is a critical piece of infrastructure that is necessary to ensure domestically produced Bakken crude oil is transported safely within the United States. No other method of transportation for this abundant resource is as safe or reliable as pipeline infrastructure. Our Alliance has long supported the Dakota Access Pipeline Project so long as it received a fair and thorough review. We believe that the project has been sufficiently studied and the proper due diligence has been done. With the now four necessary states having approved this project, we believe the time has now come to allow construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline Project. We urge the remaining regulatory bodies to finalize their review and approve construction this month and encourage your office to help facilitate the final step for the project.

The Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now (MAIN) is a coalition made up of trade unions, small businesses, and agricultural enterprises from North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois in support of increasing access to domestically produced energy resources. The Dakota Access Pipeline project is an important part of this goal and will create a wealth of benefits both during the construction process and its subsequent operation. As a diverse group, of sometimes opposing interests, we stand unified in a goal of seeing this project approved.

The Iowa Utilities Board, North Dakota Public Service Commission, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, and the Illinois Commerce Commission have all approved this project, undergoing a painstakingly thorough review over the past two years which ultimately determined the pipeline as a public necessity. These approvals are a testament to the extensive environmental expertise utilized during the process, as well as the implementation of mitigation actions that reflect the concerns and opinions of farmers and landowners along the route. Environmental impact mitigation planning by Dakota Access was critical for the MAIN Coalition to lend our support to this project as it will have an impact on our communities along the route and in our region. Now it is time for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve the project as well.

Recent calls from environmentalists ignore the stated mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; to advance energy conservation and development as major national objectives and give high priority to the process of permit actions involving energy projects. It is not surprising that these environmental groups, who have called for the rejection of nearly every important energy infrastructure project, and aligned federal

agencies, did not thoroughly review the material already passed by state boards, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha District.

A mere 3.5% of the total project falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, specifically only in areas where the project crosses Waters of the United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district in Omaha has already determined that the route is not expected to have any significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the environment. A final delay of the approval process, then, is counteractive of multiple previous state-level decisions. This project has already addressed questions in a thorough environmental review along the route through multiple state agencies. Further additional unnecessary federal review would delay construction, resulting in a number of subsequent issues.

The construction process has been acutely timed in coordination with farmers to guarantee minimal impacts to crop cycles. Further delays in approval would result in construction affecting two growing seasons instead of just one. We therefore urge you to encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Interior to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to approve this pipeline project unimpeded by additional and unnecessary requests.

Dakota Access has already catalyzed economic activity throughout the Midwest. The \$3.78 billion total investment in the project has already resulted in \$200 million in order commitments for John Deere, Vermeer, and Caterpillar from Michels Pipeline and Precision Pipeline, LLC., who will be constructing the project with the employment of union labor. From the creation of thousands of construction jobs for hardworking Americans to the generation of tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue, this project will continue to energize local economies with billions in capital investment.

Further, this pipeline will benefit farmers and other commodity shippers across the region by reducing the congestion and backlog currently present within the region's rail network, as well as result in access to affordable, domestically produced Bakken crude oil. This vital energy resource will power our homes and businesses throughout the Midwest for generations, advancing our nation's economic well-being and contributing to our nation's pursuit of energy independence.

Environmental mitigation plans and extensive review periods by individual state utility boards have already determined that Dakota Access is taking all the correct steps to ensure the safety of the environment during construction and operation of the pipeline. We believe that another environmental report from the federal government is simply not necessary and will only delay construction and its subsequent benefits to the region. Please do not waste taxpayer money on a redundant effort. For these reasons, the MAIN Coalition urges expedient action on the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Sincerely,

Ed Wiederstein, Chairman, Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now
Andy Peterson, Greater North Dakota Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer
Dawna Leitzke, Executive Director South Dakota Propane and Petroleum Marketers Association
Gordon Woods, Vice President South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Association
Kathy Zander, Executive Director, South Dakota Grain and Feed Association
Jim Protexter, Chief Operating Officer, Pierre Economic Development Corporation
Dawn Carlson, President, Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa
Mike Ralston, President, Iowa Association of Business & Industry
Bill Gerhard, President, Iowa State Building & Construction Trades Council
Bill Fleischli, Executive Vice-President, Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association.
Pat Poepping, Chief Executive Officer, Poepping, Stone, Bach, and Associates.

CC:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha
1616 Capitol Ave., Ste. 9000
Omaha, NE 68102

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204