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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Angel, and Benton

Read first time 02/03/15. Referred to Committee on Energy,  
Environment & Telecommunications.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE JAY  
5 INSLEE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
8 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The United States relies, and will continue to rely for  
10 many years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel despite the recent  
11 focus on renewable and alternative sources of energy; and

12 WHEREAS, In order to fuel our economy, the United States will  
13 need more oil and natural gas while also requiring additional  
14 alternative energy sources; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States currently depends on foreign imports  
16 for more than half of its petroleum usage, and is the largest  
17 consumer of petroleum in the world; United States dependence on  
18 overseas oil has created difficult geopolitical relationships with  
19 potentially damaging consequences for our national security; and

20 WHEREAS, Oil deposits in the Bakken Reserves of Montana, North  
21 Dakota, and South Dakota are an increasingly important crude oil  
22 resource with an estimated 11 billion barrels of recoverable crude  
23 oil, and there is not enough pipeline capacity for crude oil supplies

1 from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas to  
2 American refineries; and

3 WHEREAS, Canadian oil reserves contain an estimated 173 billion  
4 barrels of recoverable oil, and Canada is the single largest supplier  
5 of oil to the United States at 2.62 million barrels per day and has  
6 the capacity to significantly increase that rate; and

7 WHEREAS, The Keystone XL pipeline will, when completed, carry  
8 700,000 barrels per day of North American crude oil to American  
9 refineries in the Gulf Coast region; and

10 WHEREAS, Construction of the project will create 20,000 jobs  
11 nationwide, including construction and manufacturing jobs, create 20  
12 billion dollars in economic growth, and generate 3 billion dollars of  
13 government receipts; and

14 WHEREAS, A recent study by the United States Department of Energy  
15 found that increasing delivery of crude oil from Montana, North  
16 Dakota, South Dakota, and Alberta, Canada, as well as Texas and  
17 Oklahoma, to American refineries has the potential to substantially  
18 reduce our country's dependency on sources outside of North America;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Canada sends more than ninety-nine percent of its oil  
21 exports to the United States, the bulk of which goes to Midwestern  
22 refineries; oil companies are investing huge sums to expand and  
23 upgrade refineries in the Midwest and elsewhere to make gasoline and  
24 other refined products from Canadian oil derived from oil sands; and  
25 the expansion and upgrade projects will create many new construction  
26 jobs over the next five years; and

27 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of the money used to buy Canadian oil  
28 will likely later be spent directly on United States goods and  
29 services in contrast with increasing the trade relationship with  
30 unstable regions, and, therefore, supporting the continued shift  
31 towards reliable and secure sources of North American oil is of vital  
32 interest to the United States and the state of Washington; and

33 WHEREAS, The Keystone XL pipeline is critical to jobs and energy  
34 independence for the citizens of Washington as well as all other  
35 states, and it is therefore fitting and proper that the legislature  
36 call upon the federal government to immediately address this issue;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectively pray that the  
38 United States Congress and the Administration support continued and  
39 increased development and delivery of oil from Canada to the United  
40 States, and that the President of the United States approve the

1 Keystone XL pipeline project that has been awaiting a presidential  
2 permit since 2008 to ensure America's oil independence, improve our  
3 national security, reduce the cost of gasoline, create new jobs, and  
4 strengthen ties between the United States and Canada.

5 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
6 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
7 States, the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of  
8 Washington, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
9 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
10 State of Washington.

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