



Letters responding to payroll tax cut/Keystone bill

Proponents of the Keystone XL pipeline have succeeded in passing legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that requires a decision about approval of the pipeline within 60 days. Moreover, it appears that the [GOP is using this issue](#) as an election-year talking point: Obama is killing badly-needed jobs by delaying the pipeline. This is a talking point that must be challenged in the media. It will be disastrous for the climate if the public erroneously equates support for fossil fuel development with support for new jobs.

As stories and commentary appear in your local paper about the payroll tax-Keystone bill, send letters to the editor.

Key points:

- The 234 U.S. House members who voted for legislation linking payroll tax cuts to the Keystone XL pipeline have received an estimated \$42 million from the fossil fuel industry. The interests of the oil industry are being placed ahead of hard-working Americans.
- [Job estimates for Keystone](#), some exceeding 100,000, have been highly inflated. TransCanada, the pipeline builder, puts the figure at 13,000 “job years,” which means 6,500 jobs lasting for two years.
- Jobs would be a wash with pipeline, according to a [study from Cornell](#). The pipeline would actually divert more oil from Midwest to overseas markets, increasing the cost of fuel, which diverts money from other economic activity and kills as many jobs as it would create.
- Pipeline spills, pollution and increased greenhouse gas emissions incur significant human health and economic costs, thus eliminating jobs.
- Construction of the pipeline would have a chilling effect on investments in clean energy and energy efficiency, stifling job creation in these sectors.
- We can stimulate investments in clean energy and energy efficiency – without government subsidies – with a clear and predictable price on carbon.
- Legislation has been introduced, the [Save Our Climate Act](#), that taxes carbon at the source and returns revenue to the public, shielding households from rising energy costs.

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