

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ED WHITFIELD  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER  
Markup on H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act  
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The American people are struggling with high gasoline prices as well as unemployment above 9 percent.

The good news is that we have within our power the means to help address these concerns by expediting the Keystone XL pipeline expansion project that would allow more oil to come into this country from our ally Canada. That is why we need to pass H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act, and give a long-overdue green light to this project.

Canada is increasing its production of oil, especially from its oil sands in Alberta. In fact, the current pipeline system that sends Canadian oil south to American refineries is struggling to handle the growing volumes.

The Keystone XL expansion project would allow up to 1.29 million barrels per day to flow into refineries in the Midwest and Gulf Coast, a 700,000 barrels per day increase over existing capacity. More oil means lower prices, and more imports from a stable ally like Canada means less from unstable nations and potential adversaries. According to a study conducted for the Department of Energy, the Keystone XL project has the potential to “essentially eliminate” our oil imports from the Middle East.

The good news only gets better when one looks at the job impacts of the Keystone XL project. Construction of the expanded pipeline system would create an estimated 20,000 jobs.

Despite claims from President Obama that he is aggressively taking steps to bring down gasoline prices and create jobs, the administration has stonewalled on approval of this shovel-ready project. Most recently, the Obama EPA has

announced its objections which could lead to additional delays. As it stands now, there is no clear end in sight.

Unfortunately this is part for the course in the federal government's review process of this pipeline.

- TransCanada, the developer of this project, first submitted its application for a Presidential Permit in September 2008.
- The State Department didn't release its Draft Environmental Impact Statement until April 2010.
- After this first step, EPA rejected the Draft Statement and told State Department they had to perform more work.
- After another year, State Department issued a Supplemental Draft Statement that addressed EPA's concerns.
- Even then, EPA seems to think the thousands and thousands of pages of objective and honest analysis performed by various federal agencies is not enough.

H.R. 1938 is a bipartisan bill that cuts through the endless delays and creates a hard deadline for the administration to act on Keystone XL. It's time to get moving on reducing energy prices and unemployment and pass this bill.