



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
RANKING MEMBER BRUCE WESTERMAN

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## **FALLON COUNTY SUPPORTS XL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION**

The Biden Administration's action to revoke the existing Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline has a substantial impact on Fallon County, Montana. The action has directly led to the termination of approximately 70 workers including specialized welders and the loss of \$7 million per year in tax revenue. The effort by the administration to cancel the Keystone XL project eliminated these jobs and the stability our workers and their families need during COVID-induced economic uncertainty.

Continuing Keystone XL construction would also induce significant spending and revenue at the local level, with millions of dollars going to small businesses. A loss of \$7 million per year in tax revenue limits our rural community's ability to invest in new schools, new roads, and other public works projects that will bring about a higher standard of living.

Pipeline operator TC Energy has committed to operate Keystone XL with net-zero emissions, pledging to invest \$1.7 billion to produce 1.6 gigawatts of renewable energy. TC Energy has adapted to address the associated environmental, social, and governmental concerns of the project. We believe these significant changes in the project should be considered by the administration. The Keystone XL pipeline should be upheld as an example of how American industry may approach environmental, social, and governmental concerns towards building a more reliable and resilient energy future.

The coronavirus pandemic has devastated the economy in Fallon County, Montana. The cancellation of the XL pipeline will further exacerbate our already weakened economy. President Biden has an opportunity to signal that access to good-paying jobs is truly a priority for his administration, by reconsidering his decision to stop construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.



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**Archie Chaisson, III**, Parish President

**Executive**

April 16, 2021

House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members  
Congressman Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member

Good Afternoon Ranking Member Westerman and other members, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today speaking on behalf of the 100,000 residents of Lafourche parish, a majority of which wake up every day and put on their boots and go to work in the oil and gas industry.

I want to start by saying that I do not think that anyone in the room would argue that climate change is something that is not real, but I passionately believe that the energy industry and the environment can exist together and flourish. We have proven that time and time again here in Louisiana and especially here in Lafourche Parish.

For those of you that do not know, Lafourche is the home of Port Fourchon, the nation's premier Energy Port that services 100% of the deep-water oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico. That means that everything that goes out to a platform: mud, water, food, and other essential mechanical items, comes through Lafourche Parish and Port Fourchon. This port represents 458 million dollars in household earnings to the Houma MSA, 243 million dollars in household earnings to the state and 1.1 billion dollars in household earnings to the U.S. economy. That is why things like lease sales and new start permits are so important. We are not just talking about little old Lafourche Parish; these policies have an impact to every American.

Of course, revenue loss is one of our concerns and I will talk about that in a second, but it is taking care of our residents and our businesses that is my current focus because without them the revenue goes anyway. Just to give you a glimpse as to what this industry means to the Bayou Region, we have 8,015 jobs tied strictly to Port Fourchon with another 10,000 or so tied to the oil and gas industry, mostly through service companies and offshore marine operators. For every 1 job lost there are 3 others lost in our region. On a state level that number is much worse. For every 1 job lost there are 5 others lost somewhere in the economy.

It is the threat on these families and thousands more like them that have kept me up at night the last few months since President Biden set this wave into motion. Any job lost due to these orders is unacceptable!

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ARCHIE CHAISSON, III	PARISH PRESIDENT
JERRY JONES	DISTRICT 1
WILLIAM "T-BOO" ADAMS	DISTRICT 2
MICHAEL GROS	DISTRICT 3
AARON "BO" MELVIN	DISTRICT 4

JIM WENDELL	DISTRICT 5
BOBBY GRABERT	DISTRICT 6
ARMAND AUTIN	DISTRICT 7
D'LYNN CHAISSON	DISTRICT 8
DANIEL LORRAINE	DISTRICT 9

Now let's talk about the revenue piece. We have spent some time mining through the data, and we have come up with an initial figure of a 15 percent revenue reduction a year should permits not be approved and should no new lease sales occur. That 15 percent equates to about a 15-million-dollar impact to just parish government. That figure is not inclusive of the coastal revenue from GOMESA of which the State of Louisiana just received their 87.9-million-dollar check. In Louisiana, our GOMESA revenue is plugged into the State's Coastal Master Plan which is a science based 50 year 50-billion-dollar plan to save our coast and provide critical flood protection to our residents.

Again, that 15 percent revenue reduction, is not inclusive of impacts to our schools, law enforcement, fire service or emergency medical services. That number is extrapolated over and over again as it spreads to other parishes much less that state and national GDPs. We calculated that number by looking at the number of offshore vessels that might leave for other ports and the number of direct jobs that would be impacted. The second part of that number is the scariest part and that is the trickle down economics that happen because of this. It is the impact to the suppliers, the hardware stores, the gas stations that are all going to lose business and shed employees should lease sales and new permits do not happen.

Finally, Ranking Member Westerman, the hypocrisy of all this is what stings the most. As the Biden Administration moves to renewable, they are asking us to pretend that oil and gas just does not exist. In reality, those lithium batteries that power their electric cars come from mines in Mexico that are powered by generators fed with natural gas. The wind farms that dot the east coast and other parts of our country need to be lubricated and you cannot do that with sunflower seed oil, you need a petroleum product. And lastly, the lift boats that came from Cut Off, Louisiana, to help erect those windmills did not get up there on their own. They were propelled with diesel engines.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and for everyone's support for the continued momentum to keep the energy sectors and the environment moving forward together.

Thank you,



Archie P. Chaisson, III  
Parish President

## Neal Crabtree

### Invited Witness of RM Westerman

Although it's an honor to speak with you today, I have to admit, I'd rather be working. This time of year is the beginning of pipeline construction season. Like other industries in this country, pipeline construction suffered through 2020 because Covid. Many projects were cancelled so we were looking forward to 2021 and the chance to be back working. Right now, over 88% of my Local Union members are out of work and have been for sometime now.

I was lucky enough to be involved in the early stages of Keystone XL and had been working in Nebraska but of course all that ended Jan 20. I was laid off 3 hours after President Biden took office. I never dreamed my own President would put me out of work building a pipeline that would transport the very same product that already coming into the country by rail Then, try to proclaim some major environmental victory when in fact, he did just the opposite.

The administration seems to think these were just "temporary jobs" and the effect is not that bad. Im not sure if they understand that a lot of careers in this country rely on temporary projects. A carpenter doesn't spend his whole career on the same house, a lawyer doesn't spend his whole career with the same client. The Keystone XL was our house to build this year, it was our client. The effects of cancelling this project will be far reaching, not only for the workers but I also believe it will have negative effect on future projects that provide the reliable energy this country needs.

John Kerrys answer was for these workers to find jobs in Green Energy. They seem to think construction workers don't have a particular set of skills, that if you work construction, you can do any construction. I've spent 25 years in my trade and when I can work, I'm compensated accordingly. Starting over in another field means you'll start at entry level positions with entry level pay. That's not an option for someone with mortgage payment, kids to raise, and health coverage to provide.

You'll never hear me complain about a private company's right to develop Green Energy, but I don't believe the government should be destroying private company's rights to upgrade or Reliable Energy Infrastructure. Putting American out of work, spending huge amounts of tax payer money on a Green experiment is dangerous. The temperature maybe be going up a few degrees but its not rising nearly as fast as our National Debt.

# House Natural Resources Republican Forum:

“Where are the Jobs?”

April 16, 2021

## Statement of Matthew Rexford

President of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation

and

Tribal Administrator of Native Village of Kaktovik

Quyanaq, Ranking Member Westerman and Congressman Young for the invitation to speak at this forum today. It is important that members of Congress are discussing the immediate negative impacts to jobs resulting from President Biden’s Executive Orders on climate.

I am Matthew Rexford and I’m speaking to you today on behalf of the community and people of Kaktovik, Alaska (see attached map for location). Kaktovik is the only community inside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as ANWR and more importantly, the Kaktovikmiut are the only residents inside the **Coastal Plain** of ANWR – the area opened for oil and gas leasing. I am extremely frustrated that ANWR is still an issue of public debate. Kaktovik has fought for oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain for decades, It was not until the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that we were able to realize our vision, a vision that has now appears to have been extinguished by Executive Order 13990.

Our community has constantly been caught between federal actions that impact our ability to develop a vibrant, sustainable economic future. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) was supposed to allow Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC) the economic freedoms to develop its lands to benefit our community. However, ANCSA was followed by the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) which compromised our ability to access and develop our lands. Kaktovik did not want to be an island in the middle of a Refuge but it happened anyway – and as a result we have become an inconvenient truth. Having lived in the Refuge since ANILCA I can

tell you that life has been difficult, and the federal management agency has not performed its duty to our community as required under the various laws and that appears to be happening again.

We support oil and gas development not only on our lands but on the adjacent federal lands to provide for economic opportunities through jobs and businesses. Executive Order 13986 speaks to racial inequality and underserved communities – this is my community – we are an indigenous underserved community, yet we are also the ones feeling the pain of EO 13990 by stalling leasing and permitting of programs. There are enormous inconsistencies and an abundance of ambiguity embedded in all the EO's that have been issued in this administration, and from our perspective they are not being used to help us but instead to hinder us even more.

Our tribe, corporation, and city government actively participated not only in the public process for the ANWR Oil and Gas Leasing Program, but also in government-to-government consultation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) performed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Each of the Kaktovik-based entities **supported** full leasing of the Coastal Plain with the appropriate mitigations and stipulations presented in the Record of Decision-this was in-part our document! The Kaktovikmiut were an active part of the process and by ignoring the ROD, EO 13990 ignores my people. At the same time, EO 13175 requires “Consultation with Indigenous People”. We were actively consulted with by the BLM throughout the entire EIS process – this administration cannot throw that away! You cannot have one executive order requiring indigenous consultation, and a parallel EO that completely ignores that consultation.

Potential development of the Coastal Plain is not only important for Kaktovik's economy, but also critical for the long-term economic sustainability of our municipal government, the North Slope Borough (NSB). Without the services and jobs the NSB provides Kaktovik, and the other seven communities within the North Slope of Alaska, we would still be living in third-world conditions. The life expectancy of the Iñupiat has increased 13-years since development of oil within our region due to the borough providing for clean water and sanitation for our communities. We cannot turn the clock back – we are part of the United States and demand first world amenities. Until we find another source of revenue to provide for our health and economic well-being we are fundamentally a people dependent

on resource development. We have been able to come to terms with that paradox while at the same time providing appropriate protections to our subsistence resources and the lands and waters they are dependent upon.

Oil exploration is the first phase of job opportunity for our community – perhaps you have seen the press surrounding our inability to receive permits to perform a low-impact seismic program over our **OWN** lands because of EO 13990! This program was an important step to provide new job opportunities and develop capacity for my community. As a point of fact, after not receiving our permits for a 2021 program we submitted a request for an extension of our permit applications to perform seismic in 2022. Last week, I received a letter from the Department of Interior stating “In consultation with the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor, BLM and FWS are reviewing your requests, including, in particular, your recent request for an IHA and an evaluation of the environmental and other analysis that may be required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws, as well as the President’s direction contained in Executive Order 13990.” Our permit has already gone through NEPA and been reviewed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act with respect to denning polar bear. Its apparent that all that is being swept away under the guise of EO 13990. This revisit of our permits comes at a significant expense to my ANSCA corporation – how will we be compensated for those expenses?

We have felt the brunt of the EO’s first-hand in the short time they have been issued, and it leaves a bitter taste. Once again, our efforts to progress ourselves toward a sustainable economic future is being thwarted by the federal government.

I hope my comments provide some context on how EO 13990 has had an immediate, detrimental economic impact to the indigenous Kaktovikmiut.

Thank you for your time and invitation.

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**Testimony of Mr. Ingo Riemer**  
**Berg Pipe**  
**House Committee on Natural Resources – Keystone XL Pipeline Forum**  
**April 16, 2021**

Good morning. My name is Ingo Riemer and I am the President and CEO of Berg Pipe. For more than 40 years, Berg has manufactured large diameter steel pipe used in pipelines and the construction industry. I am here today on behalf of Berg's dedicated employees, and their families, who have all been negatively impacted by the Administration's cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline permit. In January 2020, Berg employed 666 people fulltime in our Mobile, Alabama and Panama City, Florida pipe mills. Today, in April 2021, Berg only employs 147 people. This 78% decrease of Berg's skilled workforce is a direct result of the current national energy policy.

The outcome of KXL's permit cancellation is not just the cancellation of this pipeline, but the continued reluctance of energy companies to build new pipelines to supply both natural gas for power generation and oil to reduce America's dependence on foreign crude. It is devastating for a business to invest billions into pipeline infrastructure only to have their permit revoked after the cash has been spent and countless hours of work performed.

Pipelines remain the safest method to transport a medium to market. Crude by rail, truck, and vessel come with a substantially higher risk of accidents and a substantially larger carbon footprint than a pipeline. As pipeline operators also attempt to upgrade their existing systems to further improve safety with new pipe and new technology, they continue to face challenges with receiving government approval.

The general public might not understand that oil is not just used to make gasoline and motor oil. We are surrounded by petroleum products in our daily lives. Pharmaceuticals, plastics, electrical components, contact lenses, and rubber are just a few examples that improve our quality of life.

My colleagues are real people who want the best for their families. They want clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment for future generations. We understand the importance of green energy and why it is a priority for the Administration. However, the transition from oil and natural gas cannot be implemented overnight. It is difficult to understand how politics can lead to an attempt to abruptly shut down an entire industry without an alternate industry fully established, force employees into unemployment, and send businesses to their demise. Companies in the oil and gas industry, like Berg Pipe, understand the energy industry and are capable of adapting to new technologies. An industry change to renewable energy will require years of research and development and billions, likely trillions, of dollars in infrastructure improvements. If the government wants to shut down a vital industry, then it should provide adequate assistance to ensure companies can survive the transition.

The last year has been tough for businesses worldwide. As we begin to exit the pandemic, when business should be returning to normal, we are now facing political challenges that further harm our industry, our employees, and our company. Thank you for your time and please let me know if you have any questions.

Good Morning to all Congressional Leaders and Invited Guests,

I'm Jim Winchester, Executive Director of the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico and on behalf of the 350+ members, I'd like to thank Congresswoman Yvette Herrell for the invite today and for all of her support for the oil & gas industry in New Mexico.

The Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico, also known as IPANM, serves as the voice of independent oil and gas producers in New Mexico, many of whom are smaller, multi-generational, family-owned operators who live and work in New Mexico's two major producing basins. There's the San Juan Basin, primarily a natural gas basin in northwest New Mexico...the Four Corners area. Then, there's the New Mexico side of the Permian Basin, which holds the key to America's continued energy independence...if we are allowed to access it.

And that's really the issue right now in New Mexico. While oil prices have improved since the early days of the pandemic, our operators report significant challenges in their struggle to remain solvent...and now, definitively point to both the initial 60-day federal permitting moratorium and the continuation of the federal leasing moratorium.

Since 54% of New Mexico's oil comes from federal lands and mineral rights, I would argue our state has the most to lose right now. I'm hear today to report that private investors are already cutting off investments in the New Mexico Permian, as our operators have to us this.

And, for that reason, operators themselves are looking across the state line to Texas, and beginning to put money into leases on private land there. Likewise, we are losing drilling rigs to Texas. With the exodus of rigs across statelines, also comes the departure of oil service companies, workers, and jobs, along with the secondary retail and hospitality markets.

It's a scary situation, as our industry funds 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of state budget, which finances education, public safety and infrastructure. Likewise, our industry directly and indirectly employs 134,000 people, which accounts for 13% of total state labor income. With an indefinite leasing ban on federal lands alone, the American Petroleum Institute estimates that New Mexico will lose 62,000 jobs over the next 21-months.

That is why we at IPANM have written this week to the Department of Interior urging a lift on all moratoriums and to end these new federal regulatory threats. We believe these moratoriums dispassionately fail to consider New Mexico's communities and its citizens.

With that, I stand for questions, and again thank you all for the opportunity share the perspective from industry in New Mexico.

(May add these additional comments if they haven't already been brought up...or if time allows...or if they can be worked into responses. Will play it by ear.)

If the leasing moratorium continues indefinitely, we see the environment losing, as we become a country more dependent on foreign oil being produced by countries with little to no regulations...contributing

greater emissions on a global scale...accelerating climate change...which defeats the purpose of the federal moratoriums in the first place.

Finally, I've found in my years at IPANM that our members share in this desire to protect their surroundings, as they live in work in the same communities. Which is why they take pride in the technologies developed by our industry...not government...that have had the biggest impact on the fight against climate change. Independent studies show the percentage of emissions in the Permian Basin has gone down over the past five years while production has gone up.

Members:

My name is Rock Zierman and I am the CEO of the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA) which represents over 350 oil and natural gas producers, service and supply companies, and royalty owners with assets in California.

Unlike the rest of the Continental US, California is an energy island when it comes to oil. There are no interstate pipelines capable of bringing crude in from other states. The only other domestic source of crude are tankers from Alaska, and that source has been depleting over the last twenty years. Over 60% of the crude Californians consume each day is imported on tankers from foreign countries with Saudi Arabia being the number one source of imports.

As a result of this situation, every barrel of oil we do not produce in-state must be tankered into our ports from foreign countries. Make no mistake, this hurts the environment, hurts American workers, hurts local government services, and funds undemocratic regimes that do not share our humanitarian values.

It is particularly baffling to curtail domestic energy production in California given that we are the only state whose production is subject to a greenhouse gas reduction program. President Biden has said he wants to take action on climate, but reducing in-state production of oil in California and instead relying further on foreign imports will exacerbate GHG emissions given imported crude is exempt from the cap and trade program. My members are regulated by the state, being subject to not only the cap and trade program but also stringent rules on methane emissions, vapor recovery, a ban on venting, criterion pollutant offsets, and a plethora of additional rules and regulations that imports are completely exempt from.

There are 50,000 oil and natural gas production jobs in California with an average salary of \$123,000. And 2/3 of those workers do not have a college degree. There is simply no other industry in the state that provides that quality of a career to those workers. Furthermore, our industry pays billions of dollars in local, state, and federal taxes which funds roads, schools, police and fire, and host of other vital services.

To cut off access to federal lands as has been proposed means we will import more oil from foreign countries and export our wealth, export our environmental leadership, and let foreign regimes use fossil fuels as a political weapon as was done in the past before America's energy renaissance. Let's keep our energy sources American made.

Good morning, esteemed members of the Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today from beautiful Grand Junction, Colorado. I'm Chelsie Miera, the Executive Director of the West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association.

Like many economies around the country, the global pandemic has cost jobs and opportunities and created a stressful and uncertain world for many. Colorado's economy, in particular, suffered from the pandemic shedding almost 400,000 jobs last spring amid the lockdown. Luckily, we've begun to recover but our unemployment still lags at 6.6% and we're still down 150,000 jobs. The University of Colorado Leeds School of Business doesn't think Colorado will fully recover until 2023.

Similarly, the oil and natural gas industry shared in many of these threats and challenges. We lost 9,000 direct jobs in our industry alone last year and others faced furloughs and reduced hours.

We do see hope on the horizon though. As the global economy ticks up, we're seeing more demand for our products and more rigs starting up. But even as the economic outlook improves, we're still mindful of the political uncertainty that continues to hang over our industry.

Along the Colorado Rocky Mountains, we sit atop the nation's second largest natural gas reserves. Enough to power almost one billion homes for an entire year. Our business community and our rural residents see the incredible opportunity we have. We recognize the challenges of a warming climate and are ready to do our part. Through our technological advancements and the most stringent regulations on oil and gas, Colorado produces some of the cleanest molecules in the world. The cleanly developed dry natural gas produced in our region would lessen the impacts of climate change by providing an option for our overseas allies to purchase from us, versus another country that doesn't share our safeguards and commitments.

While it may be good politics and fodder for the beltway, moving entirely away from fossil fuels is a utopian dream only capable of thriving in a place like Washington DC. In Colorado, it gets cold in the winter and hot in the summer. We have rural households powered by propane and natural gas that both heat our homes and keep our food cold. On those hottest days and coldest polar vortexes, our urban residents need the ability to ramp up power to meet demand. We all know you can't turn up the sun to power solar panels or make the wind blow harder through our turbines. Only fossil fuels like natural gas can be flexible to meet demand.

Additionally, we know the anti-energy policies being passed and discussed in Washington will have a profound impact on the energy impoverished. By outsourcing oil and natural gas to other countries, we will most assuredly see a rise in energy costs as well as costs to products. Everything from gasoline to home energy costs, to everyday products, outdoor recreation gear, medical supplies, and more, all made possible by oil and natural gas, will see higher costs. In fact, the Colorado Energy Office states "the average household in Colorado dedicates roughly 2 percent of the household's income for energy expenditures. Many low-income households have expenditures that can exceed 10 percent." Nearly 30% of Colorado households are energy-burdened which will leave these families with the choice to heat or eat.

The men and women of our industry stand ready to continue to supply the resources our country needs to weather the pandemic and get our economy moving again. In Colorado, we're actively reducing our emissions and constantly improving our technologies to make our industry better, safer and cleaner than anywhere else in the world. And let's not forget, the people...the people leading the charge are my incredibly talented colleagues...the engineers, scientists, environmentalists, truckers, rig hands and others who comprise our industry. They are the ones developing the innovations, the safety protocols and environmental standards that make our industry better.

As people struggle to find work and rebuild their finances, now is the absolute wrong time to debilitate an important industry and demonize its workers.

My charge to you as leaders of this country, is to put the politics aside and let's work together to lessen our impacts on the climate. We've made great strides over the years to improve our operations to remove and reduce emissions while keeping costs low for consumers and high-paying jobs for those who want them. We're not a static industry but one that is dynamic and up to the challenge. We're already finding ways to use carbon sequestration and carbon capture technologies to further reduce our footprint. We can find more avenues to be successful.

Banning this important industry and taking away the jobs of hundreds of thousands of American workers is the wrong approach. It's like throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Let our American ingenuity be our guide that empowers our workers to be successful, to support our households and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Our workers and the companies that employ them deserve certainty and the right to produce the resources we need here at home. Most of the workers I speak with on the West Slope of Colorado leave the politics to the politicians, but they are also tired of being political ping-pongs. They shouldn't have to worry about their jobs because of who's in the White House or the Governor's mansion or the mayor's office. They just want to do their job, support their families and give back to their communities. Help us get back to work by providing these workers with certainty and avoiding further bans and moratoria that threaten the livelihoods of workers in Western Colorado and across the country.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address you here today and I look forward to your questions.

## Testimony of Patrick Thorssen

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for inviting me to participate in this morning's discussion on keystone xl. My name is Patrick Thorssen, I'm a 15 year member of IUOE 49 and have spent the last 14 years in pipeline construction.

I believe the cancelation of the keystone xl was an ill informed hastily made decision on the part of President Biden that is negatively affecting not only the construction workers and their employers, but also local communities, and the country as a whole.

Thousands of hard working men and women would have been employed during construction. With the economic downfall due to the covid pandemic, this job would have been more than just much needed income. It would have been a life line, it meant health insurance, it meant retirement contributions. It meant self respect and dignity to those who were otherwise struggling to stay afloat in uncertain times.

I personally spoke with several friends who lost their jobs after Biden's executive order, the helplessness, the depression in their voices and in their eyes was heartwrenching to me. What do you say to a man whose livelihood was taken away from him by an elected official whose answer was to go get a different job?

Pipeline construction projects are highly scrutinized. They take years of permitting and numerous public hearings to voice people's opinions. Keystone xl has gone through this process for well over a decade. In fact, my employer, Michels Pipeline, has been invested in this project continuously since 2008. How can such a lengthy process be allowed to be reversed in just a few seconds with the stroke of a pen without providing any clear and decisive reasoning?

I was born and raised in Northern Minnesota. It's a rural area with small towns and hard working people. Working for Michels I've seen first hand the positive affects a large pipeline project has to communities. Small businesses thrive, small towns and local governments thrive. The keystone xl was no different.

Michels had been involved in constructing 8 pump stations along the pipeline route. In addition to installing a segment of the pipeline, another 9 pump stations were to be built next year also. The communities around these stations and along the entire approved pipeline corridor were anticipating construction to begin as planned. Many businesses made significant investments for improvements to accommodate the thousands of workers who would be building the xl. Now these rural communities will continue to struggle with no voice, no input on Biden's decision to shut down this project. Local governments will have lost out on an estimated 100 million in annual property taxes according to a statement from TC Energy.

Oil is no doubt a controversial subject, but it's also a product the world needs to keep moving. Like it or not countless items used in your daily life wouldn't be possible without petroleum. Any scientific study will say the safest way to transport oil is by pipeline and the keystone xl was designed to be the most advanced high tech safest one of them all. Personally I'd rather see it

moved via pipeline rather than a ship over open waters or trains hauling tankers through towns and cities.

Canceling the xl won't reduce the carbon footprint in the US. Oil will continue to be consumed, but we'll have to rely more on oil imported from foreign countries. Canada will still sell their oil, but more will be shipped to Asian markets. Instead of America being energy independent, we're becoming more at the mercy of foreign governments. Why? Because some well funded environmental extremists latched onto the keystone xl as their rally point, demonizing it with little resistance.

So where do we go from here? Do we continue to sit back and watch as people's careers, their livelihoods get erased from history? Or do we get our voices out there helping people understand the oil and gas industry isn't evil?