

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 86

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to urge the President of the United States to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

WHEREAS, the United States relies, and will continue to rely for many years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel for sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, in order to fuel our economy, the United States will need more oil and natural gas in addition to alternative energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the United States will continue to depend on foreign imports for more than twenty-five percent of its petroleum usage and is the largest consumer of petroleum in the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States' dependence on overseas oil has created difficult geopolitical relationships with potentially damaging consequences for our national security; and

WHEREAS, oil deposits in the Bakken Reserves of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota are an increasingly important crude oil resource; and

WHEREAS, there is not enough pipeline capacity to deliver crude oil supplies from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas to American refineries; and

WHEREAS, Canadian oil reserves total 174 billion barrels, of which 169 billion barrels can be recovered from the oil sands using today's technology; and

WHEREAS, Canada is the single largest supplier of crude oil to the United States, at 3.05 million barrels per day, and has the capacity to significantly increase that rate; and

WHEREAS, the southern leg of the Keystone XL pipeline ties into the existing Keystone pipeline that already runs to Canada, bringing up to 700,000 barrels of oil a day to refineries in Texas. At peak capacity, the pipeline will deliver 830,000 barrels of oil per day; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States State Department's Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS), which was issued on January 31, 2014, the Keystone XL pipeline will be safer than other pipelines, will have minimal impact on the environment, will create thousands of much-needed jobs, and will bolster the United States' energy security; and

WHEREAS, according to the Final SEIS, the Keystone XL pipeline will support approximately 42,100 direct, indirect, and induced jobs and result in approximately \$2 billion in earnings throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Final SEIS predicts that the Keystone XL pipeline will contribute approximately \$3.4 billion to the United States' gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma-Texas leg of the Keystone pipeline system, also referred to as the Gulf Coast segment, went into service in late January 2014; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent economic analysis report conducted by noted economist Bud Weinstein at Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business, the Gulf Coast segment injected \$2.14 billion into the Oklahoma economy and more than \$3.6 billion into the Texas economy; and

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

WHEREAS, Canada sends more than ninety-nine percent of its oil exports to the United States, and ninety percent of the money used to buy Canadian oil will likely later be spent directly on United States goods and services; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, nearly thirty public opinion polls have repeatedly confirmed that building the Keystone XL pipeline is in the best interest of the vast majority of Americans; and

WHEREAS, supporting the continued shift toward reliable and secure sources of North American oil is of vital interest to the United States and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly strongly supports policy decisions that enhance our country's energy security, create jobs, and promote economic growth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the President of the United States to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline and, thereby, reduce dependence on unstable governments, improve our national security, and strengthen ties with an important ally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States with this final clause omitted from such copy.