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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8018

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Holmquist Newbry, Benton, Sheldon, and Stevens

Read first time 02/02/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1            TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE  
5 GREGOIRE, 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, respectfully  
8 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 focus  
11 on renewable and alternative sources of energy; and

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

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

1           WHEREAS, Oil deposits in the Bakken Reserves of Montana, North  
2 Dakota, and South Dakota are an increasingly important crude oil  
3 resource with an estimated 11 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil,  
4 and there is not enough pipeline capacity for crude oil supplies from  
5 Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas to American  
6 refineries; and

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

11           WHEREAS, The Keystone XL pipeline will, when completed, carry  
12 700,000 barrels per day of North American crude oil to American  
13 refineries in the Gulf Coast region; and

14           WHEREAS, Construction of the project will create 20,000 jobs  
15 nationwide, including construction and manufacturing jobs, create 20  
16 billion dollars in economic growth, and generate 3 billion dollars of  
17 government receipts; and

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

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

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

36           WHEREAS, The Keystone XL pipeline is critical to jobs and energy  
37 independence for the citizens of Washington as well as all other

1 states, and it is therefore fitting and proper that the legislature  
2 call upon the federal government to immediately address this issue;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectively pray that the United  
4 States Congress and the Administration support continued and increased  
5 development and delivery of oil from Canada to the United States, and  
6 that the President of the United States approve the Keystone XL  
7 pipeline project that has been awaiting a presidential permit since  
8 2008 to ensure America's oil independence, improve our national  
9 security, reduce the cost of gasoline, create new jobs, and strengthen  
10 ties between the United States and Canada.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
12 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
13 States, the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of  
14 Washington, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
15 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
16 State of Washington.

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