



January 17, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
Biden–Harris Transition Team  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden:

Your message of healing and bipartisanship resonated with Americans, and we, as craft tradesmen and women and manufacturers, look forward to partnering with you and helping you and your administration build back better. Modern infrastructure projects are critical to rebuilding our economy for the long term, and with that in mind we want to endorse one in particular that we understand your administration is likely to evaluate in the near future.

The Keystone XL project has evolved in meaningful ways since your vice presidency. It is hardly the same project. In fact, the only thing that is the same is the project name. Your priority of building an economy that works for everyone is a value we share—and it is a value that is embedded in this project. We are confident that if you fairly evaluate this project, you will see that it offers promising opportunities to so many workers and families.

More than 2,000 Americans are already earning paychecks tied to the Keystone XL project—including 1,000 skilled workers who are members of the Labor community. Members of IBEW and Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) are building pump stations. Operating engineers, welders, pipefitters and laborers completed an international border crossing with our ally Canada. Steel mills have churned out line pipe, and manufacturers have fabricated fittings, electric motors and valves. In addition to the jobs already created, across the pipeline's footprint one of the biggest investments in renewable energy our country has seen will deliver even more opportunity.

The new Keystone XL project represents an aspirational vision for modern, sustainable energy infrastructure and can serve as a road map for how we build things in our country moving forward.

- The new project will be 100% union built and will create 10,000 union jobs during construction.
- It will operate with net-zero emissions from the day it is placed into service in 2023 and will be fully powered by renewable energy by 2030. This \$1.7 billion investment in new, privately funded renewable power infrastructure will provide 100% of the power to operate the pipeline.
- This project will be constructed under an agreement to work with unions. It will be the largest solar project in the country and one of the few renewable projects that pay middle class family sustaining wages.

- Keystone XL will be a top-10 buyer of renewable energy in North America.
- Native communities are equity partners. Keystone XL has already made \$23 million in investments tied to Native American businesses and suppliers in the United States, with a total project goal of \$350 million.
- The \$10 million Green Jobs Training Fund for union workers ensures unions provide the skilled jobs of the future and pathways to promising careers.
- The Supplier Diversity & Local Participation Program awarded \$75.9 million to women-owned businesses and \$57.2 million to veteran-owned businesses in 2019. The project also has a significant Minority Business Engagement Program.

The new vision for Keystone XL is a true 21st-century infrastructure project aimed at meeting future energy demand in the most sustainable way possible.

If this union project is blocked, workers and families will lose a huge opportunity. Renewable energy goals would be set back, 1,000 union jobs would vanish in the cold of winter and in the middle of a pandemic, and the promise of the 10,000 jobs required to build this project would disappear.

This project has been transformed since 2015, and with these new developments—expanded commitment to equity, operating at net zero and built with craft labor—Keystone XL is now the standard for energy infrastructure projects in the United States. It is our hope that you and your administration will take the time to review the new Keystone XL project closely and recognize its value to working Americans and its potential to move us toward a stronger, more sustainable economy.

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey  
President  
North America's Building Trades Unions

James T. Callahan  
General President  
International Union of Operating Engineers

Jay Timmons  
President and CEO  
National Association of Manufacturers

Mark McManus  
General President  
United Association