

# IT'S TIME TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, 1,636; that's how many days it has been since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was filed. It took Canada just 7 months to approve the pipeline. President Obama has taken 4½ years.

Study after study has shown that not only is the pipeline safe, but it will provide a means of transporting oil that is safer than using trains or trucks. It is also environmentally safe. In fact, when compared to other means of transportation, it is perhaps the most environmentally friendly way to transport oil across our country. It will create thousands of jobs—at least 800 in my home State of Montana—and he still won't make a decision.

Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department issued its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Presidential permit application, which confirmed what we already knew. The Keystone XL pipeline will have no significant impacts on the environment. In fact, this is the fourth environmental review of the Keystone pipeline—with a final report still to come—even though report after report has stated that the pipeline will not have significant environmental effects.

This report also comes after Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman approved a new route through his State for the Keystone XL pipeline project. Just this past January, I joined 150 other House Members in calling on President Obama to quickly approve the permits for Keystone in light of this new route. That was two months ago, and we have yet to hear anything back from the President.

As a member of the House Energy Action Team, I understand how important this project is to our Nation and to my home State of Montana. Let me be clear—this project means jobs for Montanans. This project could directly create more than 800 good-paying jobs in Montana and thousands more across the Nation.

It means coming one step closer to North American energy independence. The Keystone XL would be able to move up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day. That is about half the amount that the U.S. presently imports from the Middle East. And of the oil moved each day, 100,000 barrels will come from the Bakken formation, which spreads across Montana and North Dakota.

This isn't about politics. Republicans and Democrats alike support the pipeline. This is about our Nation's security. This is about lowering energy costs for American families. This is about American jobs.

Enough is enough. We can't afford to wait any longer. It has been 1,636 days. It's time for President Obama to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

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# HOW ENERGY USE IMPACTS CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of how energy use impacts climate change and to show by example what is being done about it.

Our Nation continues to rely on high-polluting energy sources that threaten our climate and threaten our national security. We need to focus at all levels of government, Federal, State, and local, as well as in the private sector to promote clean energy and energy efficiency. State and Federal facilities, above all else, should be the gold standard for clean energy and energy efficiency.

For example, the Lincoln Unified School District, located in Stockton, California, recently committed to placing solar panels on rooftops throughout the school district. Lincoln was able to purchase these solar panels through low-interest Clean Renewable Energy Bonds to help finance this project that is estimated to save \$1 million per year on energy costs. Not only does this project increase use of clean energy sources, but all the savings will be put back into educational programs, so this is truly a win-win for our students.

In addition, the University of the Pacific, also located in Stockton, California, has increased energy efficiency and sustainability. Pacific installed solar panels, energy-efficient lightbulbs in the quad and other locations, installed a robust recycling program, and installed a replacement chiller on its air-conditioning system which uses 52 percent less energy than the old chiller. It's impressive that these advancements were led by both students and faculty at the University of the Pacific.

These are just two examples of why I am introducing the Solar Energy Deployment Act. We need to encourage greater use of solar and other clean energies in our neighborhoods and on public and private lands. The Solar Energy Deployment Act awards grants on a competitive basis to State and local governments to design and install solar equipment on rooftops and above parking lots they own.

I commend the efforts made by the schools and public entities such as the Lincoln Unified School District, the University of the Pacific, and others across California and the United States that are making a concerted effort to utilize clean energy resources and to become more energy efficient.

# END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to talk about hunger in America and, specifically, the effort to end hunger now.

Mr. Speaker, hunger is still far too prevalent in America. There are more than 50 million people in this country who don't know where their next meal will come from. Seventeen million of those hungry people are children—17 million, Mr. Speaker. That breaks my heart, especially when we have a way to end hunger in this country. It doesn't have to be this way.

The truth is that hunger is solvable. We have the means, the infrastructure, and the food to end hunger. We just don't have the political will to do so.

This point is delivered in a clear, concise, and emotional way in a documentary that is in theaters now called "A Place at the Table." This film at its core may be a simple story of hunger in America, but it's really an emotional tale about how people are struggling with hunger in this country, about piecing just enough together to make ends meet day by day, week by week, and month by month.

These stories are not new and, unfortunately, they aren't unique. We don't have to look far to see a working mother who struggles to provide nutritious food for her children. We don't have to look far to see a young girl who struggles in school simply because hunger prevents her from concentrating in the classroom. We don't have to look far to see food pantries stretched beyond their means as they try to keep up with the demands of feeding the hungry in their communities. And we don't have to look far to see how often the hungry and undernourished are utilizing our health care systems for hunger and nutrition-related conditions.

What is new and unique today is the platform through which we hear these stories and experience what these individuals featured in the film are going through. The stories told by the directors, Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush, weave together the heart-breaking history of how we went from almost ending hunger in America in the late 1970s, thanks in large part to the bipartisan cooperation led by Senator George McGovern and Senator Robert Dole, to now more than 50 million hungry in this country—40 years later, 50 million hungry in this country.

But this isn't just a story of woe, Mr. Speaker. For me, this is also a story of hope and optimism, a story of a difficult struggle, but a struggle fought with dignity. And it is a story that is part of a bigger purpose and goal, and that goal is to end hunger now.

At its heart, the point of this documentary is that we can end hunger now. And I'm pleased and impressed that a strong, coordinated social action plan accompanies this film.

This comprehensive plan can be found online at [www.takepart.com/table](http://www.takepart.com/table), and I encourage everyone to take a look at this Web site. Once there,

people will be able to find important resources, including ways to access food assistance if they need help; an online gallery of artists, politicians, teachers, writers, and business and community leaders who once needed help through SNAP, the primary Federal antihunger safety program that we have in this country; and also, you see a list of partners who are helping combat hunger through this film. Most importantly, it outlines ways that people can help make hunger a national priority, and it includes specific actions that people can take in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we've had a number of strong antihunger partners over the years, but this is the first time in recent memory that there is a dedicated effort to end hunger tied directly to a mainstream film that is nationally garnering critical acclaim.

The social action plan is based on a simple concept: that people will be moved by individual stories and the facts about hunger documented in this film. When they hear the information, they will want to take action. They will be moved to act in a meaningful way.

Through this Web site, people can take part in simple actions, like contacting their elected officials or volunteering to work with local organizations that are making a difference in their communities, organizations like FRAC, Feeding America, Share Our Strength, Bread for the World, DC Central Kitchen, AmpleHarvest.org, WhyHunger, and Wholesome Wave, just to name a few of the 30 organizations allied with this film.

There is also a book, Mr. Speaker, that accompanies the film that is also of the same name, "A Place at the Table," that explains the issue of hunger and goes over the many ways that each of us can end hunger now.

As I've said over and over again, Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political condition, one that requires action by concerned Americans. Over the past few weeks, we have seen how so many Americans care about this problem and want to be part of the solution to end hunger now.

And I would, once again, Mr. Speaker, urge the President of the United States to take a leadership role, to organize a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to devise a plan to end hunger now.

Mr. Speaker, with partners like those behind "A Place at the Table," along with their social action plan, we can make a real difference. We can end hunger now.

And it is also my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this Congress will step up to the plate and join in the effort to end hunger now. It is our moral obligation. It is the right thing to do. Now is the time.

## "RYANOMICS"—THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, "Ryanomics," the House Republican budget, the so-called path to prosperity, is based upon a fanciful theory of trickle-down economics. This is a well-worn idea that belies the facts that we've seen proven time and time again.

That truth is that giving tax breaks and hollowing out the Tax Code with loopholes for the wealthy, while cutting spending for the social safety net and the poor, while cutting everything else that makes America great, that somehow this is going to create prosperity for all. Indeed, the Republicans have played from this same playbook before, and it has failed.

□ 1020

It has failed again, and it continues to fail. This was an economic theory first proposed by the American hero, Ronald Reagan. They called it Reaganomics. Trickle-down economics is what they liked to say: it would trickle down to the poor. George Herbert Walker Bush called it "voodoo economics." I think he was right on with that because in practicing voodoo, they just ask you to believe. And that's what Ryanomics is proposing for us to do. The numbers just don't add up.

Today, we only have to look at Europe to see the terrible effects of severe austerity. The Republican prescription of cut, cut, cut has been tried, tried, tried repeatedly across Europe and has only exacerbated the problems over there. Now, under the guise of balancing the budget in 10 years, we've got Ryanomics II, or Turbo Ryanomics. They're going to take \$15 trillion and balance the budget in 10 years, doubling down on a theory that Americans rejected just last year. Four or 5 months ago, we rejected Ryanomics; but here we have Ryanomics II, or Turbo Ryanomics.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not here to solely criticize the path that Republicans have charted for this House with their budget priorities. In fact, I agree with them that Congress must make difficult choices about future spending. The problem is that all too often this body asks very little of the rich and the powerful, handing out tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires like candy, doing this at the expense of the middle class and the poor. You have seen the income disparity between the top 2 percent and the middle class. The gap continues to widen.

Shared sacrifice should truly be that. It should be something that all Americans share in. Why does Congress continue to give tax breaks to big corporations that outsource jobs but fail to invest in education and scientific research that would help the American economy by creating jobs and reducing unemployment? Why would they con-

tinue to give tax breaks to those who don't need them, rather than educating the next generation of workers so that this country can continue to compete and be at the top of the global economy?

Despite the fact that trickle-down economics has been roundly criticized and discredited, my colleagues across the aisle choose to double down on what hasn't worked, and they want to continue to relentlessly cut, cut, cut the programs and the services that Americans depend on every day and which help drive our economy. I believe we must reduce our debt—and we must do that in a responsible and sensible way that slows spending over time. We can no longer leave working Americans behind while we allow the wealthy to walk away with the largest share of national prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the CPC, the CBC, and the Democratic budgets that keep our promises and invest in what works to grow the middle class.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all who call upon Your name. Send Your Spirit to fill their hearts with those divine gifts You have prepared for them.

May Your grace find expression in their compassion for the weak and the poor among us, and may Your mercy encourage goodwill in all they do and accomplish this day.

As the Members of the people's House face the demands of our time, grant them and us all Your peace and strength, that we might act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.