

That is what this chart shows. Here you see the original Keystone Pipeline that was built during my tenure as Governor. Here we show the route of the Keystone XL Pipeline, and you can see that it comes through North Dakota and Montana—our Bakken region—so that we can put oil into the pipeline. It gives us access to all these refineries in Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana.

We are talking about U.S. energy, we are talking about U.S. jobs, and we are talking about commerce in our country, getting our economy growing and growing. We are talking about generating tax revenue without raising taxes to help with our debt and our deficit, and we are talking about energy security. Why wouldn't anyone want that? Why wouldn't everyone support this project? Why is it being held up? Why is the President holding up this project? Because the net effect is, with President Obama continuing to hold up this project, we are continuing to rely on oil from the Middle East when we could be relying on oil that we produce here at home and from our closest friend and ally, Canada.

Well, some argue, it is because producing oil from the oil sands in Canada creates more greenhouse gas emissions. Let's look at the facts—not rhetoric, not hype, not spin, let's look at the facts. Oil sands crude produces about 6 percent more carbon dioxide than the U.S. crude supply average—the average. Canadian oil sands crude produces less carbon dioxide than the heavy crude we get from California or the heavy crude we get from the Middle East. Think of that. By blocking the Keystone XL Pipeline, President Obama will continue to require that we rely on heavy crude from the Middle East rather than crude that is produced with less emissions from Canada. How can that make sense?

Furthermore, since 1990 Canada has reduced the greenhouse gas emissions associated with every barrel of oil sands crude by almost 30 percent, and the technology continues to improve. Canada is investing \$3 billion in carbon capture and storage technology—\$3 billion. Eighty percent of the new development in Canadian oil sands is in in situ production, meaning drilling—like conventional drilling—rather than the old method of excavation, and that means a smaller environmental footprint.

Still, someone might say: Well, I don't care about that. I don't care. I just don't want the Canadian oil sands produced.

The Canadian oil sands are going to be produced, just as sure as death and taxes. They are going to be produced. The only question is whether the oil comes to us or goes to China.

I want to show my second chart. It is a simple map. The oil is going to be produced, but is it going to come down, pick up oil from our oilfields, and move that product to our refineries, state-of-the-art refineries with lower emissions,

or is that oil, as you can see from these green lines, going to go to the west coast of Canada and there be put on ships and sent to refineries in China and be refined in their refineries, which have much higher emissions?

If it goes to China, that means there will be more greenhouse gas emissions as the oil is transported via tankers across the ocean rather than a pipeline, and you also have the added risk of spills in the ocean, affecting the ocean ecosystem. Meanwhile, we will continue to get oil from the Middle East with higher greenhouse gas emissions and the risk of tanker spills rather than the greater safety and the lower cost of pipelines, not to mention the fact that we continue our dependence on oil from the Middle East. How can we continue to depend on energy from the Middle East when we see what is going on, when we see what is going on in Syria, when we see what is going on in Egypt and we see what is going on in Iran?

Recently, I attended the movie “Argo.” It is a great movie. If you haven't seen “Argo,” I would recommend it. I would recommend it to anyone. It is about the Iran hostage crisis in 1979. Six American diplomats fled to the Canadian Embassy when the U.S. Embassy was stormed by the Iranians. Our people, as you remember, were held at the Embassy in Iran for 444 days. We all remember that terrible time.

This movie is the story of how our government, working through the CIA, working with the Canadian Government, helped the six Americans out who were able to get to the Canadian Embassy. Our governments worked together and helped those hostages—in this case, the six who weren't taken hostage but the six who were at the Canadian Embassy—took them out of Iran. It really is a great story. It is a story of how the United States and Canada worked together when a Middle Eastern country that defines the United States as the “Great Satan” was holding our people hostage.

Here we are today continuing to rely on oil from the Middle East. We cannot continue to rely on the volatile countries of the Middle East for our energy. The American people couldn't be more clear. We have to stop our addiction to Middle Eastern oil. At the same time, we can't continue to send them billions of our dollars as we buy the oil, billions of dollars that are used against us. We can and we must rely on ourselves. We must rely on those we can count on, such as our closest friend and ally, Canada.

If we don't learn from history, we are doomed to repeat the failures of the past. The time has come to act.

President Obama, the time has come to give us a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline. The time has come to approve it. On a bipartisan basis, we have worked to address all of the concerns you have raised regarding the project, including the new route through Nebraska.

On a bipartisan basis, we have asked to meet with President Obama, Republicans and Democrats together. The response has been silence and delay. The fact is that we can build a bright energy future for this country, but we need the President to join with us to do that. We can create energy, jobs, tax revenues that will reduce our debt and deficit without raising tax rates, and energy independence for our Nation.

Again, I ask President Obama to work with us, to work with us on a bipartisan basis, and the winners will be the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO STAFFORD, KANSAS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, in my home State of Kansas, there are hundreds of small communities that line the highways and county roads that stretch across the prairie part of the country. In many of these towns, the populations are shrinking, but they are still called home by thousands of Kansans.

I grew up in one of those small communities out in western Kansas, a place where folks know their neighbors and they try to take care of them. Much of what I know about people, about human nature, is what I learned by growing up in a small town where we all knew each other. I worked at the local hardware store, swimming pool, the drugstore, and I had a paper route and got to meet almost everybody in my hometown.

In these small communities across America, the people work hard, they come together to find commonsense solutions, and they solve problems. They try to make a difference in the lives of their families and the community. They also strive to provide a better future for their kids so that every child has the opportunity to grow up, pursue the American dream, and reach their goals.

For rural communities to survive and prosper, citizens have to work together to create their own opportunities for success. What happens here in Washington, DC, has a huge consequence on the future of rural communities in my State. The reality is that those communities that are going to have a bright future are those that decide on their own to work together within that community to make certain that is the case.

An example of a community that rallied together in this way to make good things happen and to make the community better for the future is the community of Stafford, population 1,042. I would like to recognize the efforts by this community, the Stafford residents, with the Building Better Communities Award. They made the effort to preserve their town for another generation.

Rural communities across our State have been hit hard by the economic

downturn over the last few years. Many towns have encountered the closing of businesses, Main Street looks a lot less appealing, there is a shortage of health care services, and a younger generation is leaving home in search for employment. In light of these challenges, the community leaders of Stafford are taking steps to cure that town's future.

We have a chain of retail stores across our State called Duckwalls. Two years ago they announced that they were closing 20 of their stores across Kansas, and the residents of Stafford were left to drive more than 20 miles to do their routine shopping. What happens in a community like Stafford? The community leaders gathered and they raised the funds to open and operate a new store, a general store on Main Street called Stafford Mercantile.

One of the things that makes this shop unique is it is owned by the community and it features a lot of Stafford's history, including a 1928 soda fountain and the marble-topped counter. In fact, one local resident, Judy Mayes, brought her mother to that store to have ice cream from the same fountain used at their wedding reception in 1934. The new shop brings back fond memories of the past but also now brings a future for younger folks in Stafford to enjoy a store, a mercantile, and a soda fountain. The mercantile has made it possible, once again, for residents to see what can happen when they work together and now they can shop at home.

Another challenge Stafford faced was the likelihood its local hospital would have to close its doors, after more than 50 years of serving that community, due to the pressures of declining population, Medicare reimbursement rates, and the difficult financial circumstances most hospitals across Kansas now face. Access to health care services and hospitals is vital to the survival of a community. If you can't access health care in communities across my State, it is one more circumstance that creates the likelihood senior citizens will reluctantly move away to someplace where there is a doctor and a hospital, and young families will not take the risk of raising their families without access to that health care. But with more than \$1/2 million in debt, it seemed like, other than closing the hospital, there was no option for Stafford. But rather than throwing in the towel and giving up, the hospital got new leadership, they sought help from the folks in the county, and they worked hard to make ends meet so the hospital doors could remain open and continue that long tradition of serving the residents of Stafford County.

Many rural communities often struggle to add younger generations of residents to their workforce, given the lack of job opportunities. The superintendent of the local school district, Mary Jo Taylor, recognized this challenge in her community, and she decided to do something about it. With

the support of the leadership of the community, the citizens, the business community of the town, and the support of local teacher Natalie Clark, the Stafford Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center was created at Stafford High School in 2003.

The goal of this center is to equip high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with the training needed to become successful entrepreneurs. Who better to start a business in their hometown than a young person who grew up there and who is now educated and trained and has a desire for entrepreneurship? More likely that person than probably anyone else. By learning what it takes to develop and manage a small business, young people gain those valuable skills that open doors for a wide range of future employment opportunities and, most important, the opportunity to create a business at home.

As part of that learning experience, local store owners hire those students and give them hands-on experience in managing their own business. Those skills are important as those students leave high school and will help enable them to create those jobs the community of Stafford so desperately needs.

These are only a few examples of how the community of Stafford worked together to revitalize their community and pave the way for its future. Carolyn Dunn, the Stafford County Economic Development Director, summed it up this way when she said: "Stafford is proving that when communities look within themselves for growth, they do have the capability to forge a stronger, more positive future."

The community of Stafford is a success story. It is a role model. It demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking and how caring about the future of your community can make a positive difference for that community and for all of rural America. I am proud to recognize the efforts of Stafford with what we have called the Building Better Communities Award. Today, in the Senate, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for the kind of leadership and effort among all residents of the community to see that Stafford is a good place to live today and, perhaps even more important, a great place to live tomorrow.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to use oversized charts on the floor today because, basically, the information I have will not fit on a standard size chart and still be readable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OUT OF CONTROL SPENDING

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, in a very short period of time, we are going to be considering an increase in the debt limit. It is for a specific period of time, but it is, at a minimum, going to be \$500 billion. What is in front of our country, especially as we see negative growth in the third quarter, as reported today, and the continued printing of money by the Federal Reserve, is that there is no accountability to rein in either the size, the scope or the spending habits of the Federal Government.

Over the next 2 weeks, I am going to be very succinctly outlining \$1.35 trillion worth of spending reductions that I would imagine the vast majority of Americans would agree with me on. I am going to build the case almost every day as I come out here as to why we can't keep doing what we are doing, and I will demonstrate the stupidity in how the Federal Government is running today.

I know I will have no chance to defeat an increase in the debt limit that is coming forward. I don't expect to accomplish that. The votes are here to raise the debt limit and not do anything about our spending. But most Americans realize the Federal Government is twice the size it was 11½ years ago—twice the size. In just the last 4 years, the average family income has declined over 7½ percent. So while family income is declining, our deficits are rising. Our debt is now at almost \$16.5 trillion and we are projected to spend \$1.3 trillion more than we take in this year and we have claims by the President and others that we have already cut something from the Federal Government. The fact is, that is only true using Washington accounting.

As somebody with a degree in accounting and understanding generally accepted accounting principles, what I want America to know is the Federal Government is bigger right now than it was last year at this time. We have not spent \$1 less than we were spending last year at this time. As a matter of fact, we have spent about \$18 billion more. Is that an improvement? Yes. But the claims we have cut \$2.7 trillion from the budget are absolutely bogus. There is no truth in it. There is no reality in it. All anyone has to do is look at the amount of money we are borrowing to recognize that.

I want to lay out in sequential fashion five areas where we can, in fact, make significant changes in the Federal budget and start truly addressing our problems. These changes will have an impact of over \$1.3 trillion over the next 10 years. That doesn't solve our problem immediately, but if in fact we do this, what we will have done is to start down a long road of making the hard decisions. The decisions I will outline are not hard. They are the easy ones. But we will be starting down a road to get our country back and to secure the future of the young people sitting right down here and their children