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May 9, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

Thank you for your work on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Supplemental) for the Keystone XL pipeline. As you know, I am concerned that the pipeline's route unnecessarily places portions of Nebraska's Sand Hills region at risk.

Although I was pleased to see that the Supplemental included analysis of additional routes that would avoid substantial portions of the Sand Hills region, I remain disappointed that the analysis continues to consider the proposed route as the preferred route. I believe that the pipeline should be built on a route that avoids to the maximum extent possible the Sand Hills region and the center of the Ogallala Aquifer, and the proposed route fails to accomplish that goal.

As you continue to execute your duties under Presidential Order 13337, please consider extending the comment period or otherwise ensuring that Nebraskans have sufficient time to review the Supplemental. Its contents are substantial and a thorough review may require additional time.

Please also consider asking your staff to visit the Sand Hills region in Nebraska. A field hearing within the proposed route area would be a beneficial way for your staff to have a clear understanding of the area outlined in the study and potentially inform your decision regarding the pipeline.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Johanns
United States Senator

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