



February 10, 2014

U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Energy Resources, Room 4843  
Attn: Keystone XL Public Comments  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

### **Keystone XL Pipeline Fundamental to Economic Growth and Clearly in America's National Interest**

The Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) represents contractors, suppliers and manufacturers who provide construction services including installation, replacement and rehabilitation of natural gas pipelines, water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as fiber optic, cable and duct systems in communities across the country. Following the release of the latest Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) released by the U.S. Department of State on January 31, 2014, DCA believes the Keystone XL Pipeline is clearly in our national interest, and we strongly encourage the administration to approve this important project as soon as possible.

### **Energy Development Critical to Economic Recovery**

America's energy boom is reducing our reliance of foreign energy sources and has become a key driver to economic growth, particularly with respect to job creation. IHS Global Insight indicates that shale energy created more than two million American jobs in 2012, will create 3.3 million more jobs by 2020 and 3.9 more jobs by 2025. The State Department's report estimates that the Keystone XL pipeline alone would support more than 42,000 jobs across the country during its construction and add \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy. This translates to \$2 billion in earnings for workers, and a large number of new jobs are expected to be created in the construction sector.

Benefits that come with oil and gas infrastructure projects don't stop with job creation – significant economic activity results in revenue for local governments is also generated at the federal, state, and local level. The State Department indicates that direct expenditures resulting from the Keystone Pipeline alone, including construction and materials costs, will exceed \$3.3 billion, contributing to the expansion of the local tax base.

### **SEIS Again Finds No Significant Impact**

Despite the unchallenged and extraordinary economic evidence demonstrating the national significance of building the Keystone XL pipeline, opponents seem to find new and improved ways at hampering its construction. Time and time again these challenges are found to be tenuous at best. Following six years of prolonged review, the January State Department's latest SEIS finds that approval of the Keystone XL would not "significantly exacerbate" the problem of greenhouse gas emissions.

After five environmental reports and years of delay, DCA suggest now is the time to put politics aside and put Americans to work. The Keystone XL Pipeline is absolutely in America's national interest. In fact, it is pivotal to economic growth, job creation, and energy independence. We strongly encourage the Obama Administration to quickly approve this imperative project, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Darden  
Executive Vice President