



North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
a program of the NC Council of Churches
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**Oppose Legislation that
approves Keystone XL pipeline**

The Honorable Kay Hagan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 14, 2012

Dear Senator Hagan,

We write to express **strong opposition to legislation that would approve the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline or short-circuit environmental and safety reviews**. NC Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a religious response to global warming. Stopping the Keystone XL pipeline and moving toward cleaner, safer energy is a top priority. NC IPL is a program of the North Carolina Council of Churches. The Council is comprised of 27 distinct judicatories from 18 denominations. Across the state, our members have over 6,200 congregations with about 1.5 million congregants. NC IPL, as an interfaith program, also represents Jewish, Muslims, Unitarian Universalists, Friends, Buddhist, Sikh and Hindu individuals and congregations.

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline would only hasten climate change. It would unlock dirty tar sands oil to fuel America's oil addiction. The oil from Keystone would also be exported overseas and fuel the growing oil addictions in China and other countries. With climate change already harming our communities and pocketbooks across America and the world, now is the time for leadership on clean energy, not expansion of dirty energy such as tar sands.

For months, our faith leaders have been speaking out against the Keystone XL pipeline at State Department hearings and in letters to the Administration and Congress. In addition to climate, it is of great concern that Keystone 1 experienced 14 leaks in the first year, and the one million gallon tar sands oil spill into Michigan's Kalamazoo River in 2010 was nothing less than a national tragedy. It is still not cleaned up. Transporting dirty tar sands oil through the heartland of America will unnecessarily risk catastrophic damage to our largest and most important sources of food and water. Keystone is an issue of national security, not a commerce issue as the legislation in question is currently treating it.

We urge you and all Senators to oppose any Congressional attempt to make an end run around a process of robust environmental and safety review that is essential for a project such as Keystone XL. We need to take our time to consider all of our options, and all of the moral implications of our decisions on current and future generations. We can and must on Valentines Day love the Earth and model a way forward for the world, create jobs, and care for God's Creation. Our calling is to be good stewards of our shared resources. Please oppose any and all legislation that would approve Keystone XL.

Faithfully,

Richard Fireman
Public Policy Advisor, NC Interfaith Power & Light, a program of the NC Council of Churches