



Weekly Update

February 15, 2012

Hello CORE Members,

The Keystone XL pipeline is really like a zombie. It keeps looking dead, then it gets up and keeps on coming. It is clear that the millions of dollars that the oil and gas industry has fed into Congress over many, many years is continuing to be a good investment for them.

Despite clear opposition from American citizens, TransCanada (the company proposing the KXL) is getting their way in the halls of Congress. The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed legislation that would approve the pipeline, taking away that authority from the State Department. The legislation will still have to clear the entire Congress (probably no problem) and the Senate.

Just yesterday, over 800,000 signatures (collected in 24 hours) on a petition opposing the Keystone Pipeline were delivered to the Senate. We will see if the Senate listens to citizens any more than the House does.

On the bright side, a judge in Lamar county issued a temporary restraining order against TransCanada stopping them from doing construction work on a farm near Paris. The legal issue at hand is the use of eminent domain to force land-owners to allow the pipeline to be constructed on their land. The pipeline has been defined as a "common carrier" which is what allows them to use eminent domain in Texas.

Now, what can you do about it, besides sign petitions and call your Congressperson/Senators? Want to get on your feet? Here's your opportunity!

Chris Voss
CORE President

Landowner Support Rally for Texans- "TransCanada- Don't Mess with Texas" - Do Come!

Many of you were involved in the fight against dirty coal plants that were planned for your community several years ago. Now there is another direct threat to the health and environment of your North Texas homes - the Keystone Tar Sands Pipeline. Many of your neighbors have been threatened with eminent domain takeovers of their land and we would like you to join a rally this Friday, February 17, 2012 to call a halt to this practice.

What: Landowner Support Rally for Texans-- "TransCanada- Don't Mess with Texas"

This past Monday Julia Trigg Crawford, a landowner who resides near Paris, Texas filed a restraining order against TransCanada to protect her property. Upon asking for a standstill order while in negotiation on her eminent domain case, TransCanada's representatives balked against her request saying they wanted to start trenching on her property as early as March 1st.

TransCanada's Keystone XL permit was denied by the president, so by what permit or authority does TransCanada have to take property or start any kind of tar sand pipeline in Texas? TransCanada, despite the denial of a permit continues to bully landowners. Groups are questioning this company's right to take land via eminent domain. Ms. Crawford has challenged their common carrier status.

Julia's case is emblematic of the struggle landowners are having across our state.

Tell this private, foreign company "Don't Mess with Texas" this Friday in Paris at the courthouse.

Send them a loud and clear message, "Don't bully Texans, putting their land and their water at risk." Stand with us Friday with your boots on at one of these 2 locations. Put your boots on. Hold your Texas or American flag high. We stand with Texans. We stand with Americans against this kind of bullying by a private, foreign company who masquerades as a common carrier.

Paris Event:

Place: In front of Lamar County Courthouse
Address: 119 North Main- Paris, Texas 75460
Date: Friday, February 17, 2012
Time: Rally - 9 am
Court hearing: 10 am

Contact: In Dallas, Rita Beving, 214.557.2271 [please add other contact of your group]
Dallas Car Pool: Meet in the parking lot at Walmart on Midway/LBJ at 6:45 am. Park your car near the Lazy Boy store, not near the Walmart. Look for Rita's silver Toyota 4-Runner. Estimated time to be back in Dallas around 1:30 pm.

Bring your Texan on-- boots, hats, Texas/American flags, signs of protest

The embargoed media advisory on this event is coming from Debra Medina and participating landowner groups, We Texans, TURF, Independent Texans, Government Accountability Project, etc. (We will send out advisory embargoed for tomorrow so TransCanada doesn't get too much notice.)