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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE OIL PROJECT
PUBLIC MEETING

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Lady Bird Johnson Auditorium
2313 Red River Street
Austin, Texas
Wednesday, September 28, 2011

The public meeting commenced at
12:15 p.m., Maryruth Coleman and Greg Maggio,
presiding officers.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 12:15 p.m.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Hello everyone. Can you
4 hear me in the back of the hall please? No. All
5 right, here we go, thank you. Good afternoon
6 everybody. It's a delight to have you here. I know
7 there are many more line, but there are many who wish
8 to speak today. So we're going to start, and then
9 let the others filter in.

10 So I am Maryruth Coleman. I work at the
11 U.S. Department of State, and my colleague, Greg
12 Maggio, also from the Department of State. We're
13 here today to listen to your comments regarding the
14 National Interest Determination for the proposed
15 Keystone XL Pipeline. On behalf of the Department of
16 State, we would like to thank you for joining us here
17 in Austin. I would also like to thank the University
18 of Texas at Austin for agreeing to host this meeting.

19 The purpose of this gathering of the
20 public is to express their views on whether issuing a
21 permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is in
22 the U.S. national interest. In order to focus

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1 attention on your views, given the large crowd, today
2 we will be listening, and we will not be engaging in
3 a question and answer format. That is the case at
4 all the public meetings that are being held in the
5 country, in South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas,
6 Oklahoma, here in Texas and in Washington.

7 I appreciate the interest of all of you in
8 this very important issue, and for taking the time to
9 express your perspectives on this issue. We take
10 your comments very seriously, and we will consider
11 them carefully. I understand that there are strong
12 views on this important issue, and so I want to ask
13 that you respect the rules that we are setting down,
14 to enable everyone for which we have the time to get
15 up and fully express themselves. We ask that the
16 audience be fair and respectful to everyone who has
17 taken the time to come, and who rises to speak.

18 Before I begin, I would like to describe
19 the Department of State's role in the Presidential
20 permitting process, and lay the ground rules for
21 participating in this meeting. In September 2008,
22 TransCanada Keystone Pipeline LP filed an application
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1 for a Presidential permit for the proposed Keystone
2 XL pipeline. Executive Order 1337 delegates to the
3 Department of State the authority to issue a
4 Presidential permit for facilities such as the
5 Keystone XL pipeline that crosses the U.S. border.

6 In considering a permit, the Department of
7 State determines whether allowing the border crossing
8 is in the U.S. national interest, taking into account
9 environmental, safety, energy security, foreign
10 policy and social and economic concerns. In addition
11 to the Executive Order, the Department determined
12 that because of the importance of the proposed
13 pipeline, that it would evaluate the pipeline's
14 possible environmental and safety impacts, consistent
15 with the National Environmental Policy Act.

16 As a consequence, the State Department
17 prepared an environmental impact statement,
18 consistent with the law, to evaluate the proposed
19 pipeline's potential environmental and safety
20 impacts.

21 In preparing the environmental statement,
22 over the past two and a half years we have conducted

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1 some 41 public meetings along the pipeline route, and
2 in Washington, D.C., to gather public comments in
3 developing the scope and draft of these environmental
4 impact statements.

5 On August 26, the State Department
6 released the final environmental impact statement,
7 which addresses more than 250,000 comments from the
8 public, in these public comment periods.

9 The final environmental impact statement
10 is one factor considered in the review process. It
11 does not represent a final decision on the permit
12 application. Now as we move into the national
13 interest determination period, the State Department
14 is compiling additional information, to determine if
15 the pipeline is in the national interest, and whether
16 to grant or deny the permit.

17 Now let me turn to just the few ground
18 rules that we would ask all of us abide by. We hope
19 to have the opportunity to listen to everyone who
20 wishes to speak. But given the anticipated large
21 crowd, we want to limit each speaker to three
22 minutes. We know that isn't a lot of time, but if we

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1 don't abide by that, then a lot of people will wait
2 and not have a chance to speak.

3 If you do not have a chance to speak, or
4 if you have additional things that you want on the
5 record, beyond the three minutes that you have, there
6 is a possibility and an opportunity to provide your
7 written comments.

8 There's a table up there on the back to my
9 right. You can submit comments there on the back of
10 the form that you received when you came in, or you
11 can provide comments by email, fax, online. We will
12 consider equally all such comments.

13 Speakers will make their comments on a
14 first-come, first-serve basis by assigned number when
15 you came in. We have two microphones in the room,
16 and I would like to call the odd numbers over here to
17 my right, so 1-3-5, and over here, 2-4-6. So when we
18 call your number, please come down. Then we'd like
19 maybe the next two in line, to back up behind them,
20 because that will enable us to move the comment
21 period more efficiently.

22 So after each speaker finishes, we will
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1 then call the next number. Since we don't know how
2 many have signed up to speak, we can't tell you or
3 guarantee when you might get to speak. As you speak,
4 you will be timed for the three minute interval, and
5 this gentleman here on my right will hold up a sign
6 indicating you have two minutes, one minute, and then
7 a red card that indicates that time has elapsed.

8 I have seen how quickly three minutes
9 goes. I know it isn't a lot, but we need to abide by
10 that rule. In that, I would like to ask you if you
11 have things that you wanted to read, I have seen that
12 that takes a lot of time.

13 What I would ask you please is to convey
14 to us from your heart what it is that you want to
15 say, and submit any of the written up statements to
16 the table in the back. That will help us to move
17 along.

18 Okay. So for safety reasons, we don't
19 want a whole lot of people in the aisle. So just the
20 few who are lined up to speak and we're asking all
21 video cameras to remain in the back, press with still
22 cameras here on the right.

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1 Written comments will be accepted until
2 October 9, 2011. All comments here will be
3 transcribed by a court reporter, on my left. To help
4 him to really get your comments written down
5 correctly, we ask that each speaker spell their last
6 name, so that he can record it correctly. All oral
7 and written comments will be considered as part of
8 our record of decision, and will be reviewed by the
9 Department of State during the decision-making
10 process. As I said, we won't be able to engage in
11 question and answer. We just want to listen to you.

12 We request that no displays or signs be
13 posted here in this room. Now please turn off your
14 cell phones or set them to a silent setting. We plan
15 on ending the meeting at 8:00 p.m. So there will be
16 a break. We're going to go to until 3:30 and then
17 begin again at 4:00 until 8:00, and then we will end.

18 Again, I want to stress that the
19 Department of State has not made a decision on this
20 matter. Thank you for your interest and for coming
21 to the meeting, and now I would like to start the
22 proceedings. We have -- first, I would like to

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1 introduce a few public officials that would like to
2 speak, and we would like to welcome them to the
3 microphone. So we have State Senator Craig Estes.
4 Please.

5 MR. ESTES: First of all, thank you very
6 much both of you for coming to Texas to take
7 additional comments. My name is State Senator Craig
8 Estes, E-S-T-E-S. I am from Senate District 30,
9 which is in North Texas, encompasses 18 counties, and
10 we have a lot of Barnett shale gas production there.

11 This is a transparent due process system
12 that you have, and it's one of the many factors that
13 makes us all proud to call America home. I want to
14 emphatically give my support to the Keystone Pipeline
15 projects, for two main reasons. One, it will
16 stimulate job creation and economic growth in this
17 country. More importantly, the second reason is that
18 it will generate consistency and stability for the
19 American oil supply.

20 This type of common sense investment in
21 our economy needs to happen right now. This project
22 will boost the economy at no cost to the American

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1 taxpayers. This project is expected to create
2 private sector investment of more than 20 billion in
3 the U.S. economy through construction, supply,
4 services, lodging, fuel, vehicles and equipment.

5 It will create thousands of new
6 construction and manufacturing jobs, and it's
7 expected to generate more than 585 million in new
8 taxes for states and communities along the route, and
9 more than \$5.2 billion in property taxes during the
10 operating life of the pipeline. The Canadian Energy
11 Research Institute report states that U.S. jobs,
12 supported by the Canadian oil sands development,
13 could grow from 21,000 now to 465,000 jobs by 2035.

14 This project does create more consistency
15 and stability in the U.S. oil supply. Canada is a
16 reliable and stable American ally and trading
17 partner. By allowing American refiners increased
18 access to Canadian supplies of oil sands, the U.S.
19 would strengthen its energy security by reducing its
20 dependence on unstable and unfriendly foreign energy
21 sources.

22 The Keystone pipeline links a secure and
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1 growing supply of Canadian crude oil with the largest
2 refining markets in the United States, significantly
3 improving the North American security supply.

4 Canada is third only to Saudi Arabia and
5 Venezuela for proven recoverable oil reserves, with
6 more than 170 billion barrels in the form of oil
7 sands, and as the largest supplier of oil to the U.S.
8 Canada provides consistency and stability, with
9 nearly two million barrels per day, which is
10 currently more than 20 percent of U.S. imports.

11 Increased supplies of Canadian crude to
12 the U.S. would likely put downward pressure on crude
13 oil prices, and have a very beneficial impact
14 throughout the entire supply chain. Now I'm sure
15 that none of these facts are unfamiliar to you. But
16 I wanted you to know, as a proud citizen of these
17 United States, that I urge you to look favorably on
18 this exciting project. Thank you for your time.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
20 I appreciate it.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: I would now like to turn to
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1 State Representative James White.

2 MR. WHITE: Thank you very much, and good
3 to see you again. Thank you for coming to our state.
4 I am State Representative James White. I represent
5 four counties right now in East Texas. One of those
6 counties will have portions of the pipeline. After
7 the federal government gets through with
8 redistricting, y'all are in the middle of a whole lot
9 of stuff in East Texas; two counties will have parts
10 of the pipeline going through it.

11 But as I was speaking with you Monday, as
12 policymakers, and I'm a member of the legislature,
13 and one thing I try to do is make sure that whatever
14 decisions that I make, they make sense. I'm here
15 representing a number of people from east and
16 particularly southeast Texas. This needs to make
17 sense.

18 Now we opened up the newspapers and looked
19 at the TV over the last two weeks, and we have to
20 bring this out. We saw where our administration up
21 in Washington, D.C., they're expediting; they're
22 backdooring projects in other states using taxpayer
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1 money. I'm specifically talking about Solyndra.

2 I mean we have nothing against that. Even
3 in East Texas, we're experimenting and marketing
4 alternative fuels, biomass in particular. But what
5 we don't understand in southeast Texas, Keystone
6 Pipeline project, no public monies, infrastructure
7 already there. Where is the expediting for this?
8 Where is the back door around the regulations on
9 this?

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. WHITE: I'm expecting ma'am and sir,
12 when you're finished here in Texas, you will deliver
13 to the administration that this too needs to be
14 expedited, just like they did the project up in
15 California that wasted \$500 million of taxpayer
16 money. That was expedited. We expect this to be
17 expedited.

18 Now we're not asking for any regulations
19 to be violated. We want all the environmental checks
20 and we think you've done that and you're continuing
21 to do it. My sources tell me that the EPA has
22 already given tentative approval.

23

1 Another thing -- I know that there's some
2 data out there saying that this will not create all
3 the jobs that it's purported to, 20,000, 3,000. I
4 would just tell you this ma'am and sir. I have
5 people in southeast Texas that just want one job.
6 They're not worried about 3,000 or 20,000 jobs.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. WHITE: So for our national security
9 on the local level and the national level, we're
10 having problems with generating the needed revenue to
11 deliver the services for our people. You need this
12 as much as we need it. You need this as much as our
13 school districts need it, for the needed revenue to
14 get our kids ready for the next generation.

15 So I urge you to approve it and make it,
16 let it make sense. Expedite it. Take it straight to
17 the White House if you deem that this is safe for our
18 environment and good for our national security, which
19 it is. Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
22 comments, thank you. Third, we have County

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1 Commissioner Greg Parker, please.

2 MR. PARKER: Thank you very much. Thank
3 you for having me. My name is Greg Parker, and I'm a
4 County commissioner in Comal County, and I've spoken
5 out, analyzed and researched and written extensively
6 on energy issues, and I'm currently Ph.D., ABD,
7 dissertation research on the economic aspects of
8 urban natural gas exploration here in Texas.

9 I am convinced that the Keystone pipeline
10 will be a positive step for America and Texas, and I
11 thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.
12 You know, the Keystone XL pipeline is a project with
13 tremendous potential for good.

14 I would not, excuse me, it would not only
15 strengthen America's energy security, but also exert
16 downward pressure on fuel prices, by giving us a
17 direct line to one million barrels a day of oil
18 supply from a steady, friendly country, with whom we
19 have a close economic shared relationship.

20 In addition, the pipeline would almost
21 immediately create jobs. We can expect to see 7,000
22 manufacturing jobs, 13,000 construction jobs and some

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1 estimated 118,000 spinoff jobs related to the design
2 and management of the Keystone XL pipeline. This is
3 exactly the kind of economic boost that the federal
4 government tried to do with the stimulus. And again,
5 it's tried to prepare to do with more stimulus and
6 tax dollars.

7 In Texas, the Keystone pipeline would mean
8 an estimated 1.6 billion in private investment, 2.3
9 billion in total business expenditures, 2 billion in
10 gross output, and local governments would eventually
11 receive 1.1 billion in new property tax revenues.

12 Now it makes no sense to delay this
13 project of this magnitude any longer. The State
14 Department's own environmental review has found no
15 support for opposition for the Keystone pipeline,
16 based on these fears of ecological damage.

17 I believe in a balanced energy policy,
18 that melds conservation and judicious utilization of a
19 wide variety of fuel resources. The Keystone XL
20 pipeline would fortify our energy supply, grow our
21 economy and put thousands of people to work. I
22 strongly encourage you to approve it now. Thank you.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
3 comments. I appreciate it. So now I would like to
4 call number one, and then ask that maybe number two
5 line up there. Again to reiterate, it would be
6 helpful if you would spell your last name.

7 MR. PETTY: Thank you, I'm sorry. I'm
8 Bobby Petty, B-O-B-B-Y, Petty, P-E-T-T-Y. I'm with
9 Veterans for Keystone XL. Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Maggio,
10 thank you for coming to Austin today. I appreciate
11 it. We have a number of vets in the auditorium.
12 I've been able to speak with some of you. Thank you
13 for serving. Thank you for those that are still
14 serving.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. PETTY: As a veteran, I was an
17 aircraft commander on a KC-10. It's the largest air
18 refueler in the world. I can carry 350,000 pounds of
19 gas. It can refuel three aircraft at the same time.
20 I saw firsthand how vital, readily available and
21 affordable oil and oil products is to the security of
22 this nation, for peacekeeping efforts and for

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1 humanitarian efforts worldwide.

2 The U.S. Air Force used three billion
3 pounds of jet fuel last year, supporting Air Force,
4 Navy, Naval and U.N. Operations. Before processing
5 that three billion pounds took 110 billion barrels of
6 crude to process. By comparison, we used -- we're
7 going to use 7.3 billion barrels this year. The Navy
8 is the single largest user of diesel fuel, and even
9 though the Navy's made great strides reducing its
10 diesel usage, by going and reducing, I'm sorry, using
11 20 percent of its diesel and converting and using
12 bio-diesel instead, there are still some very
13 inconvenient truths and realities that we must face.

14 You cannot put a windmill on a jet
15 fighter. You cannot put a solar panel on a
16 submarine. You cannot run an M-1 tank on bio-diesel.
17 I've checked. You can't do it. To the best of my
18 knowledge, there are few if any charging ports for
19 electric power Humvees in Afghanistan. The U.S.
20 military is becoming greener, and it's well on its
21 way to meeting the President's goal of being
22 petroleum-free by 2030. But that is 19 years away.

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1 In the meantime, the total cost of
2 defending Middle Eastern oil is a little under \$200
3 billion a year. That's \$200 billion that could have
4 been used for teachers, Pell grants, job training
5 centers, or even to help pay down the national debt
6 of \$14.7 trillion. The Keystone pipeline will safely
7 deliver almost one-fourth of the actually 22.7, to be
8 precise, percent of the 4.4 million barrels of oil we
9 ship every day from OPEC nations, nations that don't
10 really -- sometimes don't have our best interests at
11 heart.

12 As a former Teamster, I want these jobs.
13 I want the work. There's a lot of people who are
14 sitting by and not able to work. Keystone will help
15 that. As a veteran, I want to see our sons and
16 daughters come home as soon as possible, and not have
17 to risk their lives to defend foreign oil in foreign
18 countries.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Mr. Petty, I regret that
21 you're --

22 MR. PETTY: And as an American, I'm proud

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1 to stand with my union friends, with my veteran
2 friends, with my Canadian allies, in asking the
3 President to please give the Keystone pipeline the
4 quickest consideration, so we can get it operating
5 and help out the oil shortage that we have here in
6 the United States.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Thank
8 you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Number two please.

11 MR. REID: Yes. My name is Jack Reid, R-
12 E-I-D. I'm with the Midwest Region of the Laborers
13 International Union of North America. I appreciate
14 the opportunity to be here today, to give you some
15 brief comments on why we support this project.

16 What we know is that it will bring good,
17 family-supporting jobs to our members, and that is so
18 critical, especially right now. As I think many of
19 you know, unemployment in the construction industry
20 is over 20 percent, and it's been that way not just
21 for this year or last year, but it's been that way
22 for the last three years. There's just no question

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1 that we can really use the jobs. We need the jobs
2 now.

3 We believe it would be the reasonable
4 thing to do to build the pipeline now, reduce our
5 dependence on oil from hostile regimes, and we also
6 believe in protecting the environment. We're very
7 pleased that the government is taking this thorough,
8 exhaustive review, to make sure that this project is
9 safe, because we know that when that happens, we're
10 one step closer to creating thousands of good jobs
11 for our members across the country and for workers
12 across the country.

13 In closing, I just want to talk about
14 briefly a recent study done by Cornell University
15 that seems to dispute the number of jobs that are
16 created by numbers that Keystone had put out. Here's
17 what we do know, that it appears the document has
18 multiple, erroneous misleading statements that
19 ultimately lead to incorrect conclusions.

20 It's a classic example of starting with a
21 preordained conclusion, and saying whatever's
22 necessary to support it. One of the things I found

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1 most interesting is that they talked about
2 construction jobs being temporary in nature, as if
3 that was something that's brand new. In fact, all of
4 us in the construction industry know that jobs are
5 short-term in nature.

6 The fact of the matter is that that's
7 nothing new. In the industry, we go from one job to
8 the next. What we do know is that 1,600 miles of
9 pipe, 17 spreads, 29 pump stations. What we know is
10 this project is the largest infrastructure project on
11 the books in America today, and it comes at a time
12 that we desperately need our members to go to work.
13 That's why we support this project. Thank you very
14 much.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
17 comments. Number three please.

18 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you. My name is Reno
19 Hammond. I am representing the Laborers
20 International Union of North America. Thank you for
21 having us here. Americans need work. Workers are
22 not against the environment. Keystone XL has been
23

1 fully vetted, and will be built with the best
2 technology, and with the environment as a high
3 priority.

4 I've seen signs outside that said "protect
5 workers." We certainly agree. Protect us from
6 losing our homes; protect us from losing our cars.
7 We need the jobs that will provide us with health
8 insurance. I'm here with my brothers and sisters
9 from the Laborers International Union, and with my
10 brothers from the Pipeliners union here in the green
11 shirts as well. They're all here on their own, where
12 they're spending their hard-earned dues money to be
13 here in support of this project.

14 We're only wondering why this project is
15 taking so long to get off the ground. Let's start
16 working now. We need to build this, as it was put in
17 another way, lifeline, not a pipeline. By doing so,
18 we can create tens of thousands of jobs, billions of
19 dollars in new spending, hundreds of thousands in
20 taxes.

21 We're here because we are directly related
22 to this issue, not because we want the media

1 attention, not because we were recruited by another
2 organization, not because we want to practice our
3 speaking skills or impress a college professor. The
4 people here in the orange and green shirts are a
5 representation of the American worker, highly trained
6 and skilled workers who keep this great country
7 going.

8 We didn't skip class to be here. We took
9 off from our normal jobs, or were in need of a job.
10 We came to represent not just ourselves but all
11 workers who need this pipeline. Every day that a
12 worker goes without a job, we lose our homes, we lose
13 our health care. We go without proper care for our
14 children. Without these jobs, we will also stop
15 spending. With jobs, we'll buy groceries, cars,
16 houses. We'll proudly pay our taxes that build and
17 maintain the infrastructure of this country, our
18 schools, social programs, our government and much,
19 much more.

20 In closing, I want to urge TransCanada
21 look and notice all my fellow brothers and sisters in
22 the union and our brightly colored shirts, and know
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1 that we'd like you to support us with this project
2 all the way through Texas. As you can see, we stand
3 ready. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
6 comments. Yes, please.

7 MR. ANDERSON: Yes ma'am. My name is Rick
8 Anderson. I'm with the Laborers International Union
9 of North America. Thank you for the opportunity to
10 speak in favor of XL pipeline today. I feel like we
11 do need these jobs.

12 I'm not a basket weaver, tree-hugging
13 extremist. I'm a construction worker. We need these
14 jobs, we need them today. We don't need to wait any
15 longer. We can do them, we can do them safe, and we
16 need to do them now. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
19 comments.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, next gentleman please.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. HOLT: My name is David Holt, H-O-L-T.

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1 I'm president of Consumer Energy Alliance. We
2 represent 300,000 men, women and consumer groups and
3 companies spread across the entire economic spectrum
4 of the United States, manufacturers, refiners,
5 agriculture, fertilizer, iron and steel,
6 transportation and consumers.

7 I want to say you're going to hear a lot
8 of arguments on both sides of this equation today.
9 For your national interest determination, a few facts
10 that I think the State Department I'm sure is
11 carefully considering.

12 One, this pipeline would bring at least
13 700,000 barrels a day of crude from Alberta to the
14 Texas Gulf Coast, to be refined in an area of the
15 country that is already optimized, optimized to
16 accept this crude.

17 Two, this would be the safest pipeline yet
18 constructed. Three, there's already more than 70,000
19 miles of pipeline in existence in the United States
20 today. Pipelines are by far the safest mode of
21 transportation for crude oil. This would be the
22 safest, the most modern pipeline in an already

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1 safest, most modern form of transporting crude in the
2 United States today.

3 Three, pipelines in existence in the
4 United States today are already carrying the
5 equivalent crude that would be proposed to be brought
6 down from Canada. Mayan crude, crude from
7 California, is already known as heavy crude. This
8 essentially would be the same crude that would be
9 proposed for this Keystone pipeline.

10 The United States needs these jobs. The
11 State Department has done an exhaustive environmental
12 impact statement study, to determine that this is the
13 best route. The environmental impacts would be
14 minimal if any, and it's the right thing to do. I
15 urge the State Department, like many of my colleagues
16 before, I urge the State Department to expedite this
17 permit process and grant Keystone their permit.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
21 comments. Number six please.

22 MR. STEPHENS: Yes, good morning or good

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1 afternoon. Welcome to Texas. My name is Bill
2 Stephens. I'm a government affairs consultant.
3 Today, I am here representing the Texas Alliance of
4 Energy Producers.

5 In our association, we have more than
6 3,000 small businessmen and women, small companies.
7 The average or 70 percent of the companies have fewer
8 than ten employees, and although we do have some of
9 the larger companies, we are a small business-based
10 group.

11 Pipelines are an integral part of our
12 business. I do not represent pipelines, I do not
13 represent refiners, I do not represent major
14 integrated companies. But I do business with them
15 every day, and they're an integral part of refining
16 the products, the natural gas and crude oil that my
17 members explore for, drill for and produce.

18 We are truly in support of the Keystone XL
19 pipeline. We support the building and its immediate
20 implementation. We believe it is a strategic
21 infrastructure project that will pay dividends for
22 North America and for this nation for the next

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1 several decades, for the next 40 to 50 years.

2 It is going to be good for the United
3 States. It will be good for our neighbors to the
4 north. It's going to provide energy solutions,
5 distribution, flexibility and political solidarity in
6 North America, and ultimately contribute to our
7 energy security.

8 We see that the combined volume of the
9 crude oil from the Canadian oil sands, with the
10 addition of the Bakken shale, and in the heartland of
11 the mid-continent, increased production.

12 Add to that the oncoming hundreds of
13 thousands of barrels out of the Eagleford shale in
14 South Texas, and the new production out of the
15 Permian Basin of West Texas, and we are looking at
16 U.S. domestic production of crude oil and refined
17 products will be the best that we have seen in four
18 decades or five decades, and so goes our balance of
19 trade as well. It will be better and better.

20 This is a project that should happen. It
21 should happen now. It's going to be good for our
22 energy security, for all of the other reasons that

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1 we've talked about, and we can do it environmentally
2 safely. This will back out foreign barrels of crude
3 oil that are coming here by boat and ship and barge
4 today, and barrels on the water have a much worse
5 record than the safe pipelines that we operate today.

6 This makes environmental sense, it makes
7 economic sense, it makes energy security sense, and I
8 appreciate the opportunity to be here.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Thank
11 you. Number seven please.

12 MR. LORTON: Hello. My name is Clint
13 Lorton. I'm with the Midwest Region Laborers, and
14 the fine men and women that you see in this room are
15 ready for you to start the pipeline, so they can
16 build it and finish it, and move on to the next
17 project that's going to benefit this country. Thank
18 you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: And that was Mr. Lorton.
21 Could you spell it please?

22 MR. LORTON: L-O-R-T-O-N.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Number eight please.

4 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon. My name's

5 Josh Adams. I'm with the Laborers International

6 Union from North America. That's A-D-A-M-S.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

8 MR. ADAMS: I've heard lots of numbers

9 talked about today, and over the last few weeks and

10 years. But the numbers that I'm not hearing are

11 people, you know. Where is the research being done?

12 How many people are wanting to know how many more

13 days, months they can afford their home, their car?

14 You know, I can't tell you how many jobs this thing

15 will create or won't create.

16 I know if I'm wandering through the desert

17 looking for water, I'm not going to pass up a cup to

18 get to a gallon. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your

21 comments. Number nine please.

22 MR. POINTER: Good afternoon. My name's

23

1 Mark Pointer, and I'm with the Midwest Region of the
2 Laborers. I rise in support of this Keystone XL
3 project. I want to be sure to speak to highlight the
4 importance of this project for working American
5 families. It is important to note that this is a
6 privately-financed shovel-ready project that will add
7 taxpayers to our shrinking middle class.

8 I was reminded of this the other day here
9 in Texas, when I met this fine, hard-working
10 waitress, and that her hours for that day were from
11 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and she was back to that job
12 the next morning at 6:00 a.m. This project will
13 provide good wages and benefits for hard-working men
14 and women. The United States at this critical
15 moment, I believe, needs a project the size of Texas
16 to jump-start this economy, and Keystone XL is that
17 project. Thank you.

18 COURT REPORTER: Your first name, sir,
19 again?

20 MR. POINTER: Mark.

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much, Mr.
22 Pointer. I appreciate it. Number ten please.

23

1 MR. GOETZ: Yes. My name is Mike Goetz.
2 That's G-O-E-T-Z, and I am with the Midwest Region of
3 the Laborers International Union, and I rise in
4 support of the Keystone XL project, and urge the
5 State Department to expedite the process or at least
6 do what you say you're going to do and get it done by
7 the end of the year, for a couple of reasons.

8 Number one, is we've heard, the jobs that
9 are created. These are good jobs that pay a decent
10 wage, that provide insurance for families, pensions
11 for the employees that have those jobs. These are
12 highly skilled jobs, done by the most skilled
13 craftsmen in the world that build pipelines. And you
14 know, some of these jobs have been referred to in
15 some of the testimony that's been given as being low-
16 paying dirty jobs.

17 Well tell that to somebody that's trying
18 to raise a family and put food on the table, and to
19 support their family, that these are dirty, low-
20 paying jobs. They're not. They're great jobs, and
21 our members desperately need them. The second reason
22 I think that we need this project is the dependence
23

1 on oil, and I hate to say that we still need oil
2 coming into the country, but we do. We're not there
3 yet.

4 I'd love to have a totally green economy,
5 where we don't pollute, you know, the air or the
6 water or anything else. But we're not there yet, you
7 know, and our union supports the --

8 (Interruption.)

9 MR. GOETZ: --the wind industry. We
10 support the solar industry. But we're not there. We
11 still need oil, and its better that we get it from
12 our friends rather than the people that are trying to
13 kill us.

14 That's another reason, the third reason I
15 support the project is the revenue that goes to state
16 and local governments. We can't pick up the paper
17 today without reading about our teachers being laid
18 off, policemen, firemen being laid off.

19 Local governments desperately need the
20 revenue that will be created along the path of this
21 pipeline. Lastly, you know, I don't think this
22 should be a jobs versus the environment issue.

23

1 You've conducted one of the most exhaustive
2 environmental impact statements that have ever been
3 done, and have come to the conclusion that there are
4 no reasons why this pipeline should not go forward,
5 and that's why I urge you to approve it and let's get
6 on and build the pipeline. Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
9 Number 11 please. Before you speak, I appreciate
10 that there are many different views on this issue,
11 and I hope we will hear from many of those views.
12 But please try to be --

13 (Interruption.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Excuse me. If I can just
15 say that people lined up and signed up to speak, and
16 we're calling them in the order of the list that we
17 have here. It's as simple as that. They lined up
18 first and signed in. So we're going to just, going
19 to hear --

20 (Off mic comments; laughter.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: We would like to hear
22 everyone. We're not going to be hearing people's

23

1 input if we don't just keep going quickly, three
2 minutes quickly and hear everybody. Please. Okay,
3 number 11 please.

4 MR. HARRIS: Hello. My name is Randy
5 Harris, R-A-N-D-Y, H-A-R-R-I-S. I'm with the Midwest
6 Region of the Laborers International Union of North
7 America, and I'm here today in support of the
8 Keystone pipeline.

9 Of the approximately 1,500 miles or so of
10 this pipeline will run, bisecting our nation, there's
11 no doubt that it will impact hundreds of communities,
12 large and small, and thousands upon thousands of
13 working families.

14 I don't think we can take, with the
15 economy the way it is now, and look at a \$20 billion
16 private investment in our economy and turn that away.
17 Working families deserve more and deserve better.
18 Please, I'd encourage you to give us an opportunity
19 to work on this project. I encourage the State
20 Department and the administration to strongly support
21 this project, and approve it as soon as possible.
22 Thank you.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
3 Number 12, please.

4 MR. NAVILLE: Yes. My name's Jeff
5 Naville, N-A-V-I-L-L-E, and I, too, am with the
6 Laborers Midwest Region, and I would like to
7 encourage the Department of State to let the
8 administration know that the Presidential permit
9 should be issued for a couple of reasons.

10 One is that the oil that would be coming
11 to our country would be from our friends to the
12 North. It would be -- it would help our country to
13 be more independent, as far as the oil that comes
14 from areas of the world that are not our friends.

15 Canada obviously has been our friend. We
16 have not had to defend our borders, to my knowledge,
17 in Canada or from folks outside the United States
18 coming from Canada.

19 Also, the jobs that would be created are
20 good jobs that would allow folks to have insurance
21 and support their families, as has been mentioned
22 before. In my 25 years as a laborer, I have had the

23

1 opportunity to work in several refineries. Those
2 opportunities have always come at a time when I
3 needed a job. None of those jobs came at times when
4 I didn't need one.

5 There are fellow citizens in this country
6 who need to go to work, and they just need the
7 opportunity to do it. I would encourage the
8 administration to issue the Presidential permit.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
12 Number 13, please.

13 MR. STOTT: Yes. Sean Stott, S-E-A-N, S-T
14 as in Tom, O-T-T. I also am with the Laborers
15 International Union of North America, the Midwest
16 Region Office. You've heard and will continue to
17 hear from my brothers and sisters, and those from
18 other unions, and you obviously have seen us here.

19 The question is why do we have such a
20 large turnout? Why are we so interested in this
21 particular project? Why do we show up at 7:00 in the
22 morning to get in line to speak about our interest in
23

1 this project? Well, the Midwest Region of the
2 Laborers International Union represents all but one
3 of the states through which the proposed pipeline
4 will run. We represent 58,000 men and women, in the
5 Midwestern United States, 20 percent of whom are
6 unemployed at any time.

7 Not through any fault of their own; it's
8 because the economy is down and the jobs are not
9 there. They all want to work. They all need to
10 work. They need to support themselves and their
11 families. So that is why we are here in numbers, and
12 that is why we are here early.

13 Now the State Department wants to know
14 whether this proposal is in the social interest,
15 represents a good social policy for the United States
16 of America. There's no better social program,
17 there's no better social policy than a job, a good-
18 paying job that people can support themselves and
19 their families on. You also would like to know about
20 whether it is in the interest of the United States
21 economic policy.

22 If the pipeline is approved and 20-odd
23

1 thousand people are put to work, what will happen?

2 Well, those 20,000 jobs that are created, those
3 workers, again with good-paying jobs, those jobs will
4 allow them to put their paychecks to work in their
5 local economies. That means going to local stores,
6 going to local markets, buying food for their
7 children, buying clothes for themselves and their
8 children, buying a car perhaps, all money that gets
9 put back into the local economy and creating revenue
10 for the state, local and federal governments.

11 Energy security is also an item that the
12 Department wants to know about. The Laborers
13 International Union has taken the position that this
14 country needs a comprehensive approach to its energy
15 needs, now and in the future. That means the
16 Laborers International Union supports green
17 technologies, wind energy, solar energy, energy
18 conservation through weatherization of homes and
19 businesses.

20 We support nuclear power, and we also
21 support utilization of oil. We cannot simply unplug
22 that one component. We need to continue to develop

23

1 it while we transition to more efficient and more
2 environmentally friendly technologies. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you Mr.
5 Stott. Number 14, please.

6 MR. FARNESSE: My name is Kurt Farness.
7 I'm with the Laborers International Union of North
8 America, and I'm here in support of the Keystone XL
9 project. I can't say it any better than any of my
10 brothers before me have already said it, especially
11 the verbose Mr. Stott.

12 But it basically comes down to, to
13 summarize what he said, if something needs to be
14 built, we want to build it, because that means jobs
15 for us. Whether it's a pipeline, a bridge, a
16 windmill, we need jobs. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
19 Number 15, please.

20 MR. BELLSNYDER: Yes ma'am, Ms. Coleman,
21 Mr. Maggio. We appreciate your opportunity, the
22 opportunity to be here. My name is Luke Bellsnyder,

23

1 B-E-L-L-S-N-Y-D-E-R, and I'm the Executive Director
2 of the Texas Association of Manufacturers,
3 representing close to 700 employers here in the
4 state, and 866,000 Texans directly employed in the
5 manufacturing sector, building everything from
6 airplanes and automobiles to refiners to solar panel
7 manufacturers and wind turbine manufacturers.

8 The question before us today is the
9 Keystone XL pipeline and the nation's best interest,
10 and I'm going to tell you three reasons why it's not
11 only in our best interest, it is in our absolute
12 interest. Energy security, we've touched on it
13 before. Its important not only for our physical
14 safety, but for our economic prosperity.

15 Manufacturers in order to employ these
16 hundreds of thousands of Texans need a stable supply
17 of cost-effective energy resources. The XL pipeline
18 provides that. Further, manufacturers, particularly
19 in the petrochemical business, which oddly enough the
20 huge base we have in the Gulf Coast, are making
21 products such as polymers, that are going to innovate
22 solar manufacturing and wind farming as we speak.

23

1 Those products are being made right here. But they
2 need a stable and market-based access to feedstock,
3 i.e., crude oil. The XL pipeline meets that
4 requirement.

5 Lastly, and most importantly, the most
6 important issue facing our nation frankly is job
7 creation. Elected officials of every political
8 affiliation, every party, have said in order to
9 invigorate our economy we must boost our
10 manufacturing base. The Keystone XL pipeline does
11 just that, using private sector investments.

12 There will be thousands of construction
13 jobs created tomorrow or the day after this project
14 is approved. Those are wonderful jobs. Downstream,
15 there will be up to 7,000 direct manufacturing jobs.
16 These are the highest-paid jobs in the private
17 sector, averaging \$73,000 a year, with no college
18 degree requirement.

19 We can boost this economy, we can lower
20 our unemployment rate, we can provide for energy
21 security, and we can do it as soon as you help us
22 approve the Keystone XL pipeline. I appreciate your

23

1 time and all that you do, and look forward to seeing
2 many wonderful things come about from this project.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
5 comments. Number 16, please.

6 MR. SPEEGLE: Gary Speegle, S-P-E-E-G-L-E.
7 I represent the Midwest Region Laborers International
8 Union of North America, and I'm here to support the
9 XL Keystone Pipeline. I ask that you push forward up
10 the ladder and make this permit happen. As you heard
11 my brothers and sisters before me speak, we need
12 these jobs. We need good-paying living wage jobs
13 with insurance and health care and a pension.

14 As I looked around today as I stood out in
15 line, I realized that everybody here, in some way,
16 form or fashion, uses a derivative of oil. Whether
17 you're wearing flip-flops, the glue that holds it
18 together. Whether you're wearing clothes, it's all a
19 derivative of oil in some way. The mousse on your
20 hair is a derivative of oil.

21 So you sit here and you say "we don't need
22 it." Well, I don't see a single soul in this

23

1 audience naked and barefoot. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

4 Number 17, please.

5 MS. NAVEJAR: I'm Rosa Navejar. I'm
6 president and CEO of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber
7 of Commerce.

8 COURT REPORTER: Your last name please?

9 MS. NAVEJAR: I'm so sorry. Navejar is N-
10 A-V-E-J-A-R. I want to thank you both for coming
11 here to hear our comments. The Keystone XL pipeline
12 will take us off the dependency of foreign oil, and
13 place Americans back to work.

14 We will become more self-sufficient and be
15 able to utilize various energy resources as available
16 to help build our economy. The project in turn will
17 build business, which in turn creates jobs and
18 economic impact across the six states that the
19 pipeline will be constructed.

20 The economic impact of this project puts
21 tax dollars back into our state budgets that supports
22 education, transportation and other infrastructure

23

1 needs across the U.S. These are new pipelines that
2 will exceed operational standards that were set
3 today, not 20 years ago.

4 There are no federal dollars being added
5 to this project. You know, the thing that surprises
6 me, there's federal projects, there's projects going
7 around the U.S. that are looking for federal dollars,
8 are getting approved a lot faster than this project.
9 There's no other project that can say there's no
10 federal dollars coming to it across the U.S.

11 President Obama is working to develop
12 programs that will put Americans back to work. We
13 have Americans that are ready, willing and able to go
14 to work on this project, and we need to put them to
15 work. When we create jobs that help build the
16 quality of life for all of our citizens, we create a
17 great economic impact for our U.S.

18 As president of the Fort Worth Hispanic
19 Chamber of Commerce, we advocate for economic
20 development and workforce development. This project
21 provides both. So on behalf of the Fort Worth
22 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, we support the XL

23

1 pipeline and we encourage you to go back to make this
2 a reality. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
5 Number 18, please.

6 MR. SHED: Well yes. My name is Lee Shed,
7 S-H-E-D. I'm also with the Laborers International
8 Union of North America, and I do support the Keystone
9 XL pipeline. But there's one reason why, because it
10 creates jobs and jobs is what we need. If we just
11 sit back and do nothing, then nothing would happen.
12 But if we do something, something will happen. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
16 Number 19, please.

17 MS. WILSON: My name is Christine Wilson,
18 C-H-, Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N, and I'm a member of a
19 citizen group called STOP, Stop the Tar Sands Oil
20 Pipeline. As we can hear today, there are an array
21 of reasons why people can be for or against this
22 project. In the end, it always has to come back to

23

1 public safety. Texans can live without the Keystone
2 tar sands pipeline, but we can't live without clean
3 water, clean air and our health.

4 I go back to my undergraduate degree of
5 Chemical Engineering. I was taught about high
6 pressure, high temperature, high acidity, elevated
7 corrosion levels, heavy metal content like arsenic
8 and leads, toxins like toluene and carcinogens like
9 benzene.

10 I was taught that each one of these
11 process factors on their own was worthy of detailed
12 engineering evaluation, to assure competent and safe
13 process design. The proposed Keystone XL pipeline
14 combines all of these individual factors into what I
15 consider to be an experimental pipeline.

16 Current pipeline safety regulations do not
17 address tar sands. In June of 2011, the head of the
18 federal Pipeline Safety Agency, Cynthia Quarterman,
19 told Congress that the U.S. pipeline system was not
20 designed with raw tar sands crude in mind, that
21 safety regulations were not written to address its
22 unique risk, and that the agency has not yet studied

23

1 the issue or been involved in the Department of
2 State's environmental review of Keystone.

3 I remind you that Keystone I, TransCanada
4 predicted it would spill once every seven years. It
5 spilled 12 times in the first year. In 2010,
6 Enbridge Energy spilled 840,000 gallons of tar sands
7 crude oil. It gets worse. The Department of State
8 has concluded that there are no significant impacts
9 to most resources during normal operations.

10 Well, there is nothing normal about a
11 pipeline that has so many special process and
12 operational conditions. Even U.S. EPA has rated the
13 Department of State's environmental impact statement
14 process deficient, insufficient, lacks substance,
15 lacks detail. The Department of State stated that
16 the pipeline does not cross any sole source aquifers.

17 I simply do not agree with this flawed and
18 carefully crafted legal conclusion that benefits
19 TransCanada. The Department of State acts as
20 aquifers are entities unto themselves. A spill into
21 any water resource will contaminate that water
22 resource. In the end, it really comes back down to

23

1 our water, our air and our health.

2 Texans don't want the legacy of a BP oil
3 spill, an Exxon Valdez spill or an Enbridge Energy
4 spill. I want to bring this to light. Terry Cunha
5 from TransCanada made a very important statement. He
6 said, "we'll try and hire as many qualified locals as
7 possible." I challenge everyone in this room to take
8 notice of that word "qualified," and directly ask
9 TransCanada how many qualified locals that they will
10 hire.

11 I can tell you for sure that it will not
12 be the 20,000 number that they are trying to hoodwink
13 the public and media and the government with. Thank
14 you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
17 Number 20, please.

18 MR. HARGETT: Thank you. It's good to be
19 here. I'm Ed Hargett, H-A-R-G-E-T-T. I'm the
20 manager of East Texas Electric Cooperative. I'm here
21 today on behalf of ETEC and its member cooperatives
22 in support of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline

23

1 project. I appreciate the opportunity to provide
2 comments, and believe approval of the XL pipeline
3 will be in the best interest of the United States,
4 and more immediately to East Texas, where I live and
5 work.

6 ETEC is a non-profit electric generation
7 and transmission cooperative, headquartered in
8 Nacogdoches, Texas, that provides wholesale electric
9 power to ten member non-profit distribution
10 cooperatives located throughout East Texas, which we
11 collectively refer to as the East Texas cooperatives.

12 In total, we serve approximately 308,000
13 primarily rural East Texans, who are member owners of
14 the ten distribution cooperatives. Providing
15 electric service to these member owners in East
16 Texas, we have to secure and maintain generation,
17 transmission and distribution resources necessary to
18 meet an annual demand of 1,550 megawatts.

19 We have been working with TransCanada for
20 over three years, to develop the infrastructure and
21 supply resources necessary to provide electric
22 service to the five pumping stations that will be

23

1 located in our territory. They are committed to
2 invest in the East Texas cooperative facilities to
3 develop these stations, and when construction is
4 complete, we'll serve them with between 15-5 and 105
5 megawatts of electric power.

6 The capital investment and the long-term
7 power supply arrangements will not only provide jobs
8 where it's being built, but it will assist the
9 cooperatives in the development of two new renewable
10 energy resources in East Texas, a 24 megawatt
11 hydroelectric facility on Lake Livingston, and a 50
12 megawatt biomass generation facility located in Tyler
13 County and in Woodville.

14 These two projects will support hundreds
15 of millions of dollars of new investment in East
16 Texas, hundreds of construction jobs over the next
17 two or three years, and support permanent, full-time
18 employment to personnel necessary to operate and
19 maintain these facilities.

20 These Texas cooperatives have
21 approximately 903 employees. We operate and maintain
22 over 47,000 miles of transmission and distribution

23

1 lines in East Texas. The completion of this final
2 phase of the pipeline will provide direct and
3 indirect support to these cooperatives, their
4 employees and the communities they serve.

5 The five pump stations under construction
6 will also play a vital role in assisting the East
7 Texas cooperatives in maintaining reliable, low cost
8 electric power to their 3,000 members. Again, I
9 appreciate the opportunity to provide comment and
10 support on behalf of the East Texas cooperatives, and
11 urge the Department's approval of the Keystone XL
12 project.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Thanks, Mr. Hargett. Thank
15 you. Yes, number 21 please.

16 MR. CARMAN: My name is Neil Carman, C-A-
17 R-M-A-N. I'm with the Sierra Club, and I'm here to
18 basically point out that this final environmental
19 impact statement by the State Department is a very
20 flawed document. It has many gaps with respect to
21 the review of the public safety issues, air quality,
22 water quality, soil, because if we have contamination

23

1 events which are going to occur, because these
2 pipelines all leak, this is a very dirty crude oil,
3 because of the high sulphur content, the heavy
4 metals, the benzene.

5 Then you will not be able to drink water
6 in East Texas that's been contaminated with this
7 crude oil. We've already seen a major contamination
8 event in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, that went
9 for many miles. People got sick in the area, and
10 that's because this tar sands is a very dirty crude
11 oil.

12 So therefore, the State Department needs
13 to go back and extend, reopen the public comment
14 period, after it's gone back and completed a better,
15 a more scientific review, because it's so riddled
16 with flaws and gaps. If you look at the Water
17 Resources section, for example, in the FEIS of
18 August, there's nothing for the year 2011. Yet we've
19 had the hottest year on record in Texas. We've only
20 had six inches of rain here in the Austin area.

21 So the whole impact of the last few years
22 has been completely ignored by the State Department

23

1 in that review. So that review needs to look at the
2 years 2009, 2010, 2011, to look at what is happening
3 here, with over 21,000 wildfires, very little
4 rainfall. You know, you can't drink the crude oil.
5 You can't eat it, you can't bathe in it. This is
6 what's going to happen in the 18 counties in East
7 Texas, where this crude oil is going to pass through.

8 The reviews around the oil refineries have
9 been inadequate. We've already seen that some of
10 these refineries that will process tar sands crude
11 oil will emit more neurotoxic hydrogen sulfide gas
12 into the communities, more sulphur dioxide, more
13 premature death-causing soot particles and
14 carcinogens like benzene. The State Department's
15 review did not adequately look at the sacrifice zones
16 of the people living in many of these communities
17 along the Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

18 So this is a serious gap and flaw in the
19 document, because these are low income communities
20 that I've been dealing with for many years, and these
21 people have been asking for help from governmental
22 agencies, local officials, to clean up these

23

1 refineries. But we don't do a very good job of
2 regulating refineries. These are some of the most
3 toxic sources of pollutants in the nation.

4 So the State Department needs to go back,
5 needs to reopen the comment period after it's redone
6 this FEIS. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much, Mr.
9 Carman. I appreciate it. Number 22, please.

10 MR. CARTER: Yes, good afternoon. My name
11 is Teddy Carter. I am here today to speak on behalf
12 of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners
13 Association, also known as TIPRO. TIPRO has over
14 2,300 members, including small family-owned
15 companies, the largest publicly-traded independents,
16 and large and small mineral estates and trusts.

17 TIPRO strongly supports the building of
18 the Keystone XL pipeline. You may ask why is an
19 organization of independent oil and gas producers
20 supporting a pipeline bringing in crude from another
21 region. Put very simply, infrastructure. The
22 Keystone XL pipeline represents a major

23

1 infrastructure upgrade, serving as a major conduit
2 from Cushing, Oklahoma to Port Arthur, Texas.

3 For our producers in North Central Texas,
4 Cushing has become a landlocked market, and we've
5 actually seen differential pricing occur for crude
6 that moves through that hub. The Keystone XL
7 pipeline will allow mid-continent crude from Texas,
8 Oklahoma and the Bakken Plays, to find a way to
9 market efficiently, helping to, among other things,
10 reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

11 This is good for the consumer, the
12 refiner, and most importantly, the public at large.
13 Additionally, it is well-established that pipelines
14 are far and away the safest means of transporting
15 hydrocarbons, a fact that seems to be lost in much of
16 the anti-pipeline rhetoric put forth by the
17 opposition.

18 For the oil and gas industry, there's no
19 such thing as an acceptable frequency in spillage
20 incidents, nor amount of spillage that occur from
21 pipelines. The goal is always zero spillage, and
22 industry continues to strive for and achieve

23

1 improvement towards this goal. However, in relation
2 to the amount of product that pipelines are
3 responsible for delivering across the country, spills
4 are an infinitesimal fraction of what is carried
5 across the United States.

6 Every day, pipelines bisect aquifers,
7 rivers, highways and residential centers without
8 incident and this state-of-the-art pipeline will
9 undoubtedly be constructed in a similarly
10 responsible, environmentally safe manner.

11 My final point addresses jobs. Whether
12 they are construction jobs for the shovel-ready
13 project, jobs at the refineries receiving the crude,
14 or jobs for the engineers, who will work to keep it
15 flowing, this type of economic activity is exactly
16 what the United States needs right now. I strongly
17 encourage the State Department to approve the
18 Keystone XL pipeline. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
21 Number 23, please.

22 MR. ROBERSON: I'm Uris Roberson, U-R-I-S,

23

1 R-O-B-E-R-S-O-N. I certainly appreciate the
2 opportunity to be here. As I have listened to the
3 speeches from the various ones that have come, some
4 for and some against, I come here because I'm really
5 concerned about the state of the pipeline that's
6 going to come through.

7 We can get immediate gratification from
8 some things. I can have a headache, I can have a
9 problem, I can be depressed. I can use something
10 that will give me immediate gratification. But we
11 need to look at this issue.

12 Our Commission has not received
13 appropriate information to verify what is really
14 going on with this pipeline. The citizens that are
15 around this pipeline, this 1,700 mile pipeline that
16 will carry possibly up to a million barrels per day,
17 we need to know what's in that pipeline.

18 We need to know how much spillage can
19 occur. We need to know the consequences if there is
20 a spillage. We need to know what will happen if
21 there is a spillage, and there are 500 or 600
22 residents in that area that have to be relocated. We

23

1 need to know who and what will finance or back up the
2 financial aspect of any major destruction that we
3 might have in an area.

4 So we have questions. We are not against
5 jobs, but we are concerned that if we do have
6 something to happen, a major catastrophe to occur,
7 there will be jobs, but at who's expense? I would
8 hate for Keystone to get to a point that there is a
9 200 million, 300 million or a billion dollar, ten
10 billion whatever, and end up filing bankrupt, as
11 Enron did some time ago.

12 So I'm concerned, that we need to make
13 sure that all possible evaluations -- this needs to
14 go back into the lab. We need to make sure that this
15 material that's floating down those pipelines will
16 not be detrimental nor destructive to our young
17 people. These are things that we need to know, and
18 if we don't know them, why be foolish and get
19 something going, until we get the facts. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

22 Number 24.

23

1 MR. DASILVA: Yes ma'am. My name is
2 Stephen DaSilva. That's D-A, capitol S-I-L-V-A. I'm
3 a tax paying land owner from Nacogdoches County,
4 Texas, and we do need to know what's in this
5 pipeline. The misconceived notion that it's just
6 common crude is just that, a misconceived notion.

7 Dilbit, which is what's going to be piped
8 through this pipeline, is a combination of
9 carcinogenic hydrocarbons used to dilute this
10 bitumen, this raw tar sands. When that spills, it
11 separates. The hydrocarbons float off and the
12 bitumen sinks into the water column. It's not crude
13 oil. That's the point. TransCanada's first Keystone
14 pipeline has already spilled diluted tar sands
15 bitumen over 30 times in Canada and the U.S. in the
16 last 14 months. TransCanada's track record, even
17 with all the latest pipeline technology, doesn't bode
18 well for the Keystone XL.

19 There is a lack of hard data on the
20 effects of dilbit on pipes, and the heads of two
21 major pipeline safety groups suggest that more study
22 is needed before another tar sands pipeline is built.

23

1 But evidence in the form of major spills into the
2 Kalamazoo and Yellowstone Rivers point to the
3 corrosive nature of dilbit.

4 According to the State Department, the
5 Keystone XL could leak up to 1.7 million gallons per
6 day without tripping detection mechanisms. The final
7 environmental impact statement fails to adequately
8 address the route of the pipeline across the Mount
9 Enterprise fault zone just north of Nacogdoches, and
10 the fact that the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer, which
11 supplies drinking water to 60 East Texas counties,
12 outcrops here. A spill here would be a catastrophe.

13 The FEIS fails to mention the effect of a
14 current severe drought, and spate of wildfires in
15 Texas. If TransCanada is warning landowners in the
16 pipeline's path, that they can't even drive a golf
17 cart across it, how will firefighters bulldozer fire
18 lines or drive their tanker trucks when wildfires
19 threaten?

20 If the flashpoint of dilbit is 100 degrees
21 Fahrenheit, how much more destructive could these
22 wildfires be? TransCanada has not made an emergency

23

1 response plan available for public analysis.
2 TransCanada has inflated the number of possible jobs
3 in this project by a multiple of 13 or more, falsely
4 raising hopes in difficult times. Many times more
5 jobs will be created as we continue to transition
6 away from fossil fuel dependency.

7 Evidence indicates that Keystone XL was
8 planned as an export pipeline, ending in a tax-free
9 foreign trade zone, specifically for the availability
10 of the raw or refined product to the world market.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, thank you. I think
12 we're out of time.

13 MR. DASILVA: Oh, sorry.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: I just wanted to say that we
16 really would like to have what you have written at
17 our table up there.

18 MR. DASILVA: Thank you. I'm sorry for
19 running over.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Number 25, please.

23

1 MR. OLVEDA: Yes, thank you. My name is
2 Bobby Olveda, O-L-V-E-D-A, and as a member of
3 Laborers Local 1095 and representative here in San
4 Antonio, I would like to speak on behalf of the
5 workers who are in great need of jobs.

6 I have seen the effects of the layoffs,
7 and I have seen them go on, sorry, thank you. I have
8 seen it go on now all around our great country, and I
9 am very saddened that our economy has gone this way,
10 and that the jobs have been affected, and that those
11 people that are in great need of your help are being
12 denied.

13 I speak on behalf of our growing country,
14 that is right now out there in the streets and
15 looking for work, trying to support their families.
16 Our union is our family, and the union never lets
17 their families down. I ask that you support and
18 expedite this proposal to support our American
19 workers. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
22 comments. Number 26, please.

23

1 MS. ROBERSON: I'm Shirley Roberson, R-O-
2 B-E-R-S-O-N.

3 MR. MAGGIO: What is your affiliation,
4 ma'am?

5 MS. ROBERSON: I am a retired educator, 41
6 years, and I speak because the pipeline will come
7 about 2-1/2 miles from where I live. I want to ask
8 just one question. Are we smarter than a fifth
9 grader?

10 A fifth grader knows the odds of a
11 potential spill along the pipeline, and a fifth
12 grader knows that oil sands can have an adverse
13 effect on our environment if it spills. A fifth
14 grader knows that a temporary fix is not a permanent
15 solution. A fifth grader knows that we must use our
16 influence not to let this pipeline come through. I'm
17 concerned about our health, our neighborhoods, the
18 illnesses that would come if a pipeline would spill.

19 Are we smarter than a fifth grader? Fifth
20 graders are taught never to play Russian roulette
21 with their own lives and the lives of others. So why
22 are playing Russian roulette with our lives and the

23

1 lives of our future generations? If a spill occurs
2 along the pipeline where I live, it will destroy my
3 neighborhood. I will never be able to live there
4 again. The water supply will be destroyed.

5 Aren't we smarter than fifth graders?
6 Look at the heavy metals that are in this pipeline
7 that comes through. A fifth grader would not want
8 these flowing through our heartland, the heartland of
9 the U.S. Aren't we smarter than fifth graders? Look
10 at what Dr. James Hansen, our country's leading
11 climatologist says. He tells us of the environmental
12 effects of this tar sand development.

13 It would affect our wildlife, the natural
14 environment, the wetlands and our health. Aren't we
15 smarter than fifth graders? I just want to leave
16 that with you. If we're going to let this come
17 through our neighborhood, through the heartlands of
18 the U.S. to destroy our neighborhoods for a temporary
19 fix of jobs, where we'll potentially have illnesses
20 from this pipeline. I think we're smarter than fifth
21 graders. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
2 Thank you. Number 27, please.

3 MR. DANIEL: Yes. My name is David
4 Daniel, D-A-N-I-E-L. I'm a construction worker, and
5 I'm the founder of Stop Tar Sands Oil Pipelines. The
6 State Department says that the primary purpose of the
7 proposed project is to get Canada's tar sands oil to
8 delivery points in Texas. The State Department says
9 this is an international commodity that will be sold
10 on the world market. Therefore, there is no
11 guarantee that any of this heavy crude will stay in
12 the U.S.

13 Refiners have identified the export market
14 as their primary hope for growth and maximum profits,
15 and documentation shows their plan has been to take
16 the heavy crude from Alberta, refine it in Texas and
17 then ship it out of the country from a tax-free zone.

18 In testimony to Canada's National Energy
19 Board, TransCanada said it had developed a strategy
20 to use the Keystone XL pipeline to manipulate oil
21 markets and drive up prices in the American Midwest,
22 by up to \$4 billion annually. TransCanada's jobs

23

1 claims are based on a report funded by TransCanada.
2 They are three times that of the State Department's
3 best case scenario.

4 TransCanada's own fine print disclaimer
5 says people are cautioned to not place any undue
6 reliance on their claims, as they reflect beliefs and
7 assumptions. I am a Texas landowner whose property
8 was trespassed on three years ago, and who was lied
9 to about permitting, content, safety and payment for
10 damages by this foreign company.

11 I am still required to pay taxes on that
12 land that falls within their easement. TransCanada
13 claims they are a good neighbor. That makes for a
14 nice sound bite, but in reality, three U.N. bodies
15 have told TransCanada to cease and desist, and
16 respect international covenants as they relate to
17 human rights violations in their own country.

18 U.S. pipeline regulators say that pipeline
19 regulations were not designed for raw tar sands
20 crude. The State Department admits they cannot
21 conduct a full analysis, due to the lack of
22 disclosure of the chemicals transported in the

23

1 pipeline that are considered proprietary information
2 by the shippers. The State Department admits that
3 the pipeline could leak as much as 1.7 million
4 gallons a day, without triggering its leak detection
5 system.

6 TransCanada has had 14 leaks on their
7 brand new line, earning them a corrective action
8 order by U.S. pipeline regulators. This is being
9 marketed deceptively. It is not safe, it is not
10 tested, it is not in our national interest.

11 In 2007, President Bush signed into law
12 Section 526 of the Energy Independence and National
13 Security Act of 2007. It prohibits the U.S.
14 government, which is the largest single fuel
15 purchaser in the U.S., from using taxpayer dollars to
16 purchase fuels such as tar sands that have a higher
17 carbon footprint than conventional oil.

18 A military advisory board of retired
19 generals and admirals, and the National Intelligence
20 Council, have provided government-wide intelligence
21 analysis with regards to the significant negative
22 national security implications of fuels such as tar

1 sands.

2 If anyone still thinks that there's slim
3 chance of getting a temporary job for the benefit of
4 a foreign country is more important than the safety
5 of Americans and the destruction and taking of U.S.
6 private property, then you need to be the first to
7 step foot on my property and try to take it. Thank
8 you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
11 comments. Thank you. Number 28, please.

12 MR. BOLENBAUGH: My name is John
13 Bolenbaugh, B-O-L-E-N-B-A-U-G-H, and you can go to
14 YouTube if you don't believe anything I'm saying.

15 MR. MAGGIO: What is your affiliation?

16 MR. BOLENBAUGH: My affiliation is I drove
17 here from Michigan. I am actually a union worker. I
18 support the union, but these union members don't know
19 what these companies are lying to them about, and
20 they're going to threaten their jobs in the future.
21 So can I start my time now? You just asked me a
22 question, so --

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Yes, please.

2 MR. BOLENBAUGH: I am a Navy veteran with
3 a Bronze star, a union member, and I worked on the
4 TransCanada pipeline the first time. Everything was
5 fine I thought. An oil spill happened in Michigan, a
6 sand tar spill, or excuse me, tar sand, and after
7 about -- I was the yard boss for a Canadian company,
8 the largest yard there was, I was in charge of it. I
9 was a foreman for the TransCanada pipeline, I'm not
10 just a normal cleanup worker.

11 We were told to bury oil. We were told to
12 put grass over oil. We were told there is not oil
13 left in the river, where now they're saying, after my
14 videos, there's 120 areas that are full of it. I
15 have proved over and over again that they have lied.
16 I have made them clean up 12 to 15 sites that they
17 said was clean already. I have cost them millions
18 and millions.

19 Well now I have about 200 sick people, not
20 counting the people that already moved away, and they
21 came to a meeting, because I went to 1,400 homes,
22 like Erin Brockovich, door to door. People are

23

1 having seizures, babies are being born deformed.

2 They have cancer. People are dying. I mean we've

3 had like ten deaths from this already.

4 And guess what? There was a mandatory

5 1,000 foot evacuation that this Canadian company that

6 I'm talking about, did not tell the residents about.

7 Never evacuated them. Never told them that they

8 should evacuate. I'm telling you, they're going to

9 tell you to cover up oil some day if you work in this
10 situation, and you have a choice.

11 2,500 people was in my position. I'm the

12 only one that came forward. I've lost my \$2,300 a

13 week job and my future. I have a whistleblower

14 lawsuit for one reason, and that is to make them

15 testify under oath that what they did is illegal and

16 wrong to cover up oil. I am here only to protect my

17 community, and to stop Texas from getting hurt,

18 because there will be a spill some day, and they will

19 lie to you and they will threaten you.

20 I've had two death threats, four slashed

21 tires. My brakes have been cut twice. I have a scar

22 on my head from an assault, and I have a supervisor

23

1 that assaulted me that says he has more money than I
2 can sue for. It's going to happen. Your lives will
3 be threatened if you speak up, because these guys
4 have power.

5 Nobody in a suit before me prior to 22
6 stood in line. They all had a union member stand in
7 line, and the union member gave them their number.
8 They did not deserve to speak. They did not stand in
9 line. Money is not more important than what you guys
10 are going to be asked to do some day. I want you to
11 work. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
14 I appreciate it.

15 MR. MAGGIO: Just to clarify for everyone,
16 we are asking for your affiliations. That's just a
17 matter of policy.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Number 29, please.

19 MS. HAMMOND: My name is Wendy Hammond. I
20 am an attorney that represents citizens throughout
21 the state of Texas on environmental matters,
22 specifically veterans, construction workers,

23

1 laborers, mothers, nurses, volunteer fire departments
2 throughout the state, that have been seduced by
3 corporate promises of jobs, tax revenue, security and
4 insurance, only to find out later on that they are
5 actually robbed of that insurance when the company
6 declares bankruptcy, and have to find their loved
7 ones are plagued with clusters of cancer and autistic
8 children increased in the area due to mercury poisons
9 and other heavy metals.

10 As an attorney representing these
11 citizens, every time they talk to me, the most common
12 phrase I get is "if I had only known." I am
13 dedicated to make sure that the people, before they
14 make a decision to grant, support or do anything
15 regarding these permits, is that they actually know.
16 That is the purpose of the EIS, to adequately analyze
17 the known possibilities that could happen.

18 With this pipeline, it is known that it
19 will leak somewhere. Pipelines leak. This EIS has
20 been very verbose in generalities. What we are
21 dealing with is specific details that affect at least
22 the East Texas area for the citizens I am helping

23

1 right now. When you're looking at this EIS
2 statement, it talks about earthquake potentials,
3 fault lines, what they are, 3.0 was the nearest
4 earthquake that happened in the Jacksonville area.

5 They talk about burying the oil pipeline
6 five feet deep. What they don't realize is that in
7 the East Texas area, there are several unnamed
8 tributaries, that when they are five feet deep, under
9 a flash flooding circumstances, can actually expose
10 the pipeline, and nobody will know.

11 The other thing is is that with fault
12 lines, which actually there's another, because of
13 increased fracturing for gas wells, a 2.7 earthquake
14 can create fracture lines, hairline fractures in oil
15 and gas pipelines. The detection system will not
16 detect anything less than a 1.5 percent of the flow
17 rate. There is no aerial capability of detecting
18 spills in the East Texas area, due to the foliage in
19 the area.

20 These are the details that the EIS has
21 simply overlooked, and frankly, if you talk to any of
22 my clients, they will tell you you can't depend on

23

1 state agencies to catch them either. So you really
2 need to go back and look at the details, because that
3 is what the people are missing out. I do not want
4 them to say "if I only knew." Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Many thanks. Thank you
7 again. Number 30.

8 MR. LUCIO: Hi. My name is Daniel Lucio.
9 That's L-U-C-I-O. I'm here representing a coalition
10 of over 200 citizens from Corpus Christi, Texas. Oh,
11 thank you. You know, there are a number of people
12 here that are going to speak, that are policy experts
13 and environmental experts and things of that nature.

14 I really am here to speak to the number of
15 people that could not make it, that are part of our
16 coalition and part of our community down in Corpus
17 Christi, who are deeply, deeply concerned about the
18 possible construction of this pipeline.

19 Our coalition has many members from the
20 refinery community. We have 23 refineries in our
21 area. It's a large part of our industry in Corpus
22 Christi. It's a large part of our economy. There's

23

1 no denying that. But we realize that it's time to
2 move towards other types of energy, and stop
3 polluting our communities. You know, Corpus Christi
4 is an area that is embattled with fights against
5 asthma. We have some of the top asthma rates in the
6 state, one of the top birth defect rates in the
7 state, all those things associated with the
8 refineries in our area.

9 Even our community members, many of whom
10 have jobs there and rely on those jobs to make a
11 living, realize that it's not worth those
12 consequences to our children in the future
13 generations to come. So I'm here to speak for the
14 people in Corpus Christi. I'm here to speak for
15 individuals that couldn't come with, you know, snazzy
16 bright shirts on, and no offense, because they look
17 really cool. I wish we had them.

18 But you know, we have a very concerned
19 community, and a lot of health problems. This isn't
20 something that South Texans want to see in the
21 future. I heard a gentleman mention that, you know,
22 everyone in here is relying on plastics somehow.

23

1 That's very true. But I also do not see anybody in
2 here that's not breathing or not drinking water.

3 So to my brothers in blue, everyone that
4 is going to stand with us, I appreciate that support.
5 I understand the fights that you're going through
6 with jobs and to keep your livelihoods, and we're
7 going to stand right here with you. Thank you very
8 much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
11 I appreciate it. 31, please.

12 MS. YAIRA-ROBINSON: Hi. My name is
13 Amanda Yaira-Robinson, R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N. I'm the
14 coordinator of Texas Interfaith Power --

15 COURT REPORTER: Can I get that middle
16 name again please?

17 MS. YAIRA-ROBINSON: Yaira, Y-A-I-R-A.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

19 MS. YAIRA-ROBINSON: I'm the coordinator
20 of Texas Interfaith Power and Light, the
21 environmental program of Texas Impact, Texas' oldest
22 interfaith public policy advocacy organization. I'm
23

1 a native Texan, I'm Jewish. I'm a student at Austin-
2 Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I'm a mom to two
3 boys who make me laugh every day. Thank you for the
4 opportunity to be here today.

5 First, I want to say that I can hear the
6 cry for more jobs, I do. And I hear that anxiety,
7 the worry, the suffering from folks who need jobs. I
8 want more jobs for more Americans too. We are told
9 that building this pipeline will create new jobs.
10 But it will also create new problems, harming Native
11 Peoples in Canada, increasing air pollution in
12 Houston and Corpus Christi, creating the risk of oil
13 spills in fragile aquifers, and making global
14 warming, which is already happening, even more
15 severe.

16 Creating new jobs on the backs of other
17 people who are suffering, creating new jobs that
18 creates new suffering, is not okay. Deuteronomy 22:8
19 reads "When you build a new house, you shall make a
20 parapet for your roof, so that you do not bring blood
21 guilt on your house if anyone should fall from it."
22 Now we are not talking today about building a house.

23

1 We are talking about building a very long pipeline
2 from Canada all the way down here to Texas.

3 We are also talking about continuing the
4 U.S.' role in being a primary driver of this
5 destructive method of tar sands mining in Canada, of
6 increasing our share for years to come of
7 responsibility for the clear-cutting of boreal
8 forests, of creating toxic pools and runoff that
9 kills wildlife and makes people sick, of causing the
10 destruction of North America's most important carbon
11 sequestration system.

12 If we build this pipeline, we will be
13 committing ourselves and the rest of the world to a
14 much warmer climate, and a planet that is far less
15 hospitable to human and all other forms of life. If
16 we build this pipeline, there is no parapet we can
17 make to keep people safe from the effects of more
18 severe global warming.

19 We should not build this pipeline. Let us
20 not bring the blood guilt of tar sands mining and
21 global warming on our house. Let us find other ways
22 together to create new jobs. I have faith that our
23

1 great country can rise to this challenge. The
2 Keystone XL is just not in our national interest.
3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
6 comments. Number 32, please.

7 MS. RIEBSCHLAEGER: My name is Sister
8 Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, and I'll spell that. R-I-E-
9 B-S-C-H-L-A-E-G-E-R.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Welcome.

11 MS. RIEBSCHLAEGER: I'm a native Texan,
12 born and raised in DeWitt County, in the heart of
13 Eagleford shale, before we ever heard of the
14 Eagleford shale, many years before. So I live in the
15 midst of this activity, and the frenzy of oil and
16 gas, and also in the midst of everything that that
17 brings, in terms of changes in a small community and
18 its quiet life, and of the environment around it.

19 If I could take a moment, please, before I
20 actually begin my time, just to commemorate the
21 memory of Barbara Jordan. I noted a plaque before in
22 front of a tree this morning, when I was waiting to

23

1 come in, a tree that had been planted in her honor,
2 in her memory. She taught at the School of Public
3 Service, as you know, after she left public office.

4 There was a point there from her writings
5 that I think applies very well to this morning's
6 session. "A spirit of harmony can only survive if
7 each of us remembers when bitterness and self
8 interest seem to prevail, that we do share a common
9 destiny."

10 It is our belief in this common destiny as
11 human beings, as brothers and sisters who share this
12 planet earth, and depend on it for our survival, that
13 we stand here today, in solidarity with everyone
14 concerned about the environment, with everyone
15 concerned about jobs by which they can provide for
16 themselves and their families.

17 We sympathize with all of that, and
18 support their searches, as do others in this room.
19 Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak as
20 citizens. It's democracy at its best, because it
21 enables us to speak directly to government officials
22 charged with the responsibility for the common good.

23

1 Without the intervention of lobbyists, public
2 relations hirees, the media interpretation or
3 professional politicians. It's citizen to
4 government.

5 As a religious women's congregation, we
6 have joined thousands of other Americans and millions
7 around our planet in signing on to what is called the
8 Earth Charter, an international call to work for a
9 more life-sustaining environment for all the human
10 family. Our commitment relates to the geophysical
11 environment, the social environment, the civic
12 environment as well as the spiritual environment.

13 Out of this commitment, we join our voices
14 with Interfaith Power and Light here in Texas and
15 around the nation, and with others present here and
16 throughout this continent, to oppose the plan for
17 laying the Keystone XL pipeline transporting tar
18 sands to oil from Canada to Texas ports on the Gulf
19 of Mexico.

20 Our opposition is based and focuses on the
21 points raised by Dr. Carman and others this morning,
22 relating to the dangers of this type of oil, of tar
23

1 sands oil as it's called. Their experiences and
2 reports demonstrate clearly --

3 MS. COLEMAN: Excuse me, ma'am. I'm
4 sorry. We're already reaching the end of the time.
5 Is it possible for you to submit your written --

6 MS. RIEBSCHLAEGER: Yes, it is and did you
7 count my time when I commemorated Barbara Jordan.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Well, the whole thing that
9 you speak has to be counted.

10 MS. RIEBSCHLAEGER: Okay, it was worth it.
11 Thank you very much. I will submit my entire report.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate it. Okay,
16 number 33 please.

17 MR. LOVELL: Hello. My name is Trevor
18 Lovell, and I'm with Public Citizen.

19 COURT REPORTER: Ask you to spell your
20 last name please.

21 MS. COLEMAN: Please.

22 MR. LOVELL: L-O-V-E-L-L. Thank you. So

23

1 I'm here today in opposition to this pipeline, but I
2 want to start by thanking my union brothers and
3 sisters for being here and for the work that you do.
4 Public Citizen, as you probably know, has a 40-year
5 tradition of fighting for organized labor, fighting
6 with organized labor, fighting for collective
7 bargaining rights. We believe in what you represent,
8 and we thank you.

9 What I think you represent is jobs, but
10 not at any cost, and we've been lied to about both
11 the jobs and the cost, and that's the problem here.
12 Earlier this morning, a minister was talking during a
13 prayer service we had, and he talked about words, and
14 how many words you'd be hearing today, and how tired
15 of those words we'd be by the end.

16 There's a few words I want to discuss.
17 One, let's begin with, is jobs. We've been told by
18 TransCanada up to 120,000 jobs now. Every time
19 there's a new obstacle, every time there's a new
20 obstacle the number of jobs goes up. Now the State
21 Department is saying five to eight thousand, but the
22 Perryman Group, who was hired by TransCanada, put out
23

1 120,000 jobs, so that that number could be thrown
2 around in meetings and in the media.

3 You know how they got there? They did a
4 100 year time line. We'll have 120,000 jobs, over
5 100 years. That's like adding a zero to your income
6 on a dating website, it's not fair. It's not playing
7 fair. The second word I want to talk about is energy
8 security. We're told that this is about energy
9 security that we're going to bring this oil to the
10 United States of America.

11 I don't believe that's true. Why would
12 you build a pipeline to a refinery on the Gulf Coast
13 in a foreign trade zone, if you wanted to sell that
14 oil in America? Oil demand in the United States of
15 America has flat lined. It's not growing. Now in
16 2008, when this project was proposed, it was growing.
17 Then what happened? We hit a recession, right?

18 In the intervening years, we've gotten
19 closer and closer to higher fuel economy standards.
20 We have new electric vehicles rolling off lots as we
21 speak. We are making the transition, and I want to
22 invite everybody in this room to be a part of that.

23

1 I've heard a lot of testimony today from all of you
2 about how you're building wind turbines and solar
3 panels. I talked to a lot of you outside about that,
4 and I appreciate that work.

5 But what we have to understand is that
6 it's to an end. We're doing it for a reason, and
7 that reason is to avert climate change and other
8 environmental catastrophes. James Hansen, the
9 leading climatologist in this country who works for
10 NASA, and was talking about this 30 years ago, has
11 said if we build this pipeline, it's game over. Stop
12 building the solar panels, stop building the wind
13 turbines. Throw it away because it's over. That's
14 all I have to say. I hope some of you will join us
15 tonight at six, when Jim Hightower, your friend and
16 advocate, is going to be speaking on this issue.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
20 comments. Number 34, please.

21 MR. CONNETT: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Brent Connett, B-R-E-N-T, C-O-N-N-E-T-T. I'm here

23

1 this afternoon on behalf of the Texas Conservative
2 Coalition Research Institute, a non-profit public
3 policy research foundation. Our organization, TCCRI,
4 is very strongly in support of the Keystone XL
5 pipeline for a number of reasons.

6 This pipeline is in the best interest of
7 the United States and the state of Texas. First,
8 among those reasons, is the pipeline will help the
9 United States of America and all of our states to
10 achieve greater energy security. On a day-to-day
11 basis, each day the United States of America consumes
12 15 million barrels of oil. The Keystone XL pipeline
13 is projected to bring in 700,000 barrels of oil each
14 day, if not more.

15 So this strategic asset is actually an
16 answer to many of the problems we face, especially on
17 the supply side. For example, much of our crude
18 comes from Mexico and Venezuela. Mexican crude is on
19 the decline, and Venezuela presents a number of
20 diplomatic issues to the United States.

21 Secondly, the Keystone XL pipeline will
22 lead to economic growth and, as many speakers here

23

1 today have stated, will help create jobs. What will
2 happen when crude oil arrives in Port Aransas, Texas,
3 all the way from the oil sands of Canada via the
4 Keystone pipeline? Well very simply stated, the
5 greater the supply of oil in the region, the greater
6 pressure for gasoline prices to lower at the pumps.

7 Supply and demand is an incredible market
8 force, and whereas the United States has been a
9 victim of short supply recently, this is a positive
10 step to turn that equation around and make greater
11 amounts of crude available to our system. Once the
12 crude arrives in Texas, it ties into our existing
13 network and infrastructure of refineries. That in
14 turn creates a greater tax base at the local, county
15 and state level, and it increases or secures the
16 existing base of refining jobs.

17 In conclusion, I respectfully urge the
18 State Department to approve the Keystone XL pipeline,
19 so that we may realize the benefits of energy
20 security, economic growth and job creation. Thank
21 you for allowing me this opportunity to speak today.

22

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
3 comments. Okay. Number 35, please. Is number 35
4 here?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Number 36.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Number 37. Are you 37?

9 MR. GIBSON: Yes ma'am, I am.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, thank you. Please
11 give your name.

12 MR. GIBSON: My name is Nate Gibson, and I
13 am a member of the Laborers International United of
14 North America, Midwest Region. I have a little
15 speech put together, but I'm really just going to
16 kind of speak from my heart.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Please.

18 MR. GIBSON: I've worked as a laborer for
19 15 years, and I've worked all across the country,
20 laying 42 inch pipeline for crude oil, and we don't
21 lay it five feet deep. We lay it 16 to 20 feet deep.
22 That's the way the regulations work. I've also

23

1 worked in nuclear power plants. I've worked in about
2 seven, eight different nuclear power plants in the
3 Midwest, throughout my career as a laborer.

4 If we think about the worries, the people
5 who are against the nuclear power plants, then we
6 wouldn't be where we are today. And what people need
7 to understand is the technology that we have today
8 will create this to be one of the safest, if not the
9 safest pipeline in the world. I just wanted to
10 definitely make sure that everybody knew, you know,
11 the safety that was going to come from the
12 technology, as well as the skilled brothers and
13 sisters that are in my union, and they're in all the
14 unions that are going to take place with this
15 pipeline.

16 So please expedite this to the President,
17 and this should have been done, you know, 20 months
18 ago. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
21 Number 38, please.

22 MR. VAN DELLEN: Good morning, ma'am. I

23

1 appreciate the fact that I'm given the opportunity to
2 speak here. My name is Adrian Van Dellen, V-A-N,
3 capitol D-E-L-L-E-N, and I'm affiliated with the
4 Piney Woods Sierra Club group. I appreciate the fact
5 that I'm hearing that it's jobs, jobs, jobs, and I
6 appreciate the fact that there are so many people out
7 of work.

8 But I drink water, as we all do, and I
9 believe it's really all about water and the high risk
10 of spills and the contamination of our water
11 supplies, our river systems, our reservoirs in Texas.
12 The Pipeline Safety Administration testified before
13 Congress that the pipeline is not safe, and that it
14 cannot certify the pipe as safe.

15 Yet TransCanada claims 57 special
16 conditions will be used to guarantee this pipeline is
17 safe, but only 12 of those are actually a little bit
18 different than the other conditions that are really
19 standards based on conventional crude pipelines.
20 There are no standards for KXL.

21 A similar pipe, Keystone I, leaked 14
22 times, more or less once a month. The cover-up of

23

1 oil spill is real folks. I'd like to reinforce what
2 you heard from John Bolenbaugh from Michigan. I
3 visited him a couple of weeks ago. That spill was
4 more than a million gallons. It took over 24 hours
5 to actually detect it. People were sick and dying
6 before it was realized there's actually a leak.

7 It covered more than 30 miles of river by
8 now, and the clean-up, believe it folks, is designed
9 to cover-up, and EPA is complicit with that action.
10 What's the potential for us here in Texas? Well, we
11 have five major rivers which the KXL will cross.

12 There are numerous creeks full-flowing,
13 intermittent creeks, and there are creeks besides the
14 creeks on Wilcox aquifer. If you just consider for a
15 moment with me highway 84 to 21, there's a stretch of
16 about 20 miles with at least six significant streams.

17 Not flowing so much today because we're in
18 a drought, but they generally do and we're going to
19 have more rain, I'm assure you. When you do, there's
20 about another 20 miles, and these streams will empty
21 into one of four major reservoirs in Texas, Sam
22 Rayburn Reservoir.

23

1 It's 125,000 acre feet of fresh water. If
2 we extrapolate what John Bolenbaugh tells us what
3 happened in Michigan, Sam Rayburn would be
4 contaminated. Spills will happen. Their record is
5 very clear. The pipeline is not certified safe; we
6 are at high risk. I think we need to really consider
7 that.

8 This area that I'm pointing out, this 20,
9 30, 40 miles or so is in wetland area. It's in
10 beautiful, pristine, wild areas, and it is not even
11 considered a high risk area by the company. So we
12 need to take a look at things like that.

13 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments,
14 and I'm sorry that we're out of time.

15 MR. VAN DELLEN: Well thank you. I
16 appreciate talking to you.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Please submit them to the
18 table at the back. Thank you so much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Number 39, please.

21 MS. ELLISON: Hi. My name is Jessica
22 Ellison. That's E-L-L-I-S-O-N. I am a fifth
23

1 generation Texan that grew up on land that's been in
2 my family for 150 years. The Keystone XL is set to
3 go in 300 yards from our property, which gave me
4 cause to investigate this project.

5 We should all know the environmental
6 risks. Transportation of tar sands is a relatively
7 new venture. If the Keystone I is a harbinger of
8 what's to come, we will see leaks from this thing.
9 If they happen at the wrong spot, the Ogallala
10 aquifer or the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer, we could
11 endanger 30 percent of our nation's agricultural
12 water, and drinking water for almost nine million
13 people.

14 Refining these tar sands will add
15 pollution to our air and increase our public health
16 costs. I've heard that one refinery refining tar
17 sands is the equivalent of seven coal-fired power
18 plants. The argument for this pipeline is it will
19 bring jobs. It will bring America energy security.

20 In the research that I have done, both of
21 those arguments are questionable. The State
22 Department estimates only about 6,000 jobs in total
23

1 will be created for this project, and we have no
2 assurance that the oil that will be transported
3 through over 70 rivers and two major aquifers will be
4 sold to us.

5 I was quiet during your speech. I'd
6 appreciate it if you'd stop. This river will go
7 through over 70 rivers and two major aquifers, and
8 there is no assurance that it will be sold to us and
9 not China. The risks of this project are great and
10 the benefits are not assured. All of us want jobs.
11 All of us want our children to have clean water to
12 drink.

13 It is a sad time in our country that we
14 are allowing the promise of a handful of jobs by a
15 foreign company to pit us against each other. It is
16 not a question of water versus jobs. We are all on
17 the same team, and there are other solutions to our
18 energy crisis that will bring jobs, that won't
19 endanger our water supply, our children's health or
20 steal land from farmers.

21 We decided that we wanted to go to the
22 moon, and we figured out, through our creativity and
23

1 our commitment, how to get there. We can find a
2 better and more sustainable solution to our
3 employment and energy needs than this dangerous
4 pipeline. This is not in our national interest.
5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
8 Thank you. Number 40, please.

9 MR. BRIGHAM: Yeah, hi. I'm Bud Brigham.
10 That's B-R-I-G-H-A-M. I'm CEO of Brigham Exploration
11 Company, and we're a public oil and gas company based
12 here in Austin. We're very active drilling in the
13 Williston Basin of North Dakota and eastern Montana,
14 for the Bakken and the Three Forks.

15 I have just a few comments. First, it
16 should be clear that our company, right here in
17 Austin, would benefit from the pipeline, and that
18 includes our shareholders and our employees. This
19 pipeline will allow us to more efficiently get our
20 oil to the American consumers.

21 In some people's view, there are two
22 competing issues here, the environment and the
23

1 economy. When I say "the economy," clearly we're
2 talking about people, their jobs, their families and
3 their well-being. If you accept that view, I would
4 argue that the decision is easy. Americans are
5 struggling right now. Unemployment is unacceptably
6 high.

7 Further, it's not just jobs. It's about
8 energy costs, and that means energy prices for
9 Americans. Just last night, I saw on the local news
10 on Channel 7 the story about how many Austinites are
11 behind on making their utility payments, given the
12 high cost of energy and the heat wave we've been
13 suffering through.

14 The fact of the matter is blocking low-
15 cost fossil fuel energy development is very
16 regressive in nature. You're hurting the poor most,
17 but also the middle class. We're seeing that right
18 here in Austin. Blocking projects such as this is
19 most harmful to the most needy, since their utility
20 and gas line costs are a bigger percentage of their
21 budgets.

22 Fortunately, this is really not a choice

1 between the people and the environment, which should
2 make this decision easy. The Keystone pipeline is
3 actually a net positive for the environment. The
4 probability and frequency of pipeline spills are
5 very, very low. The alternative on the other hand,
6 shipping oil on tankers from overseas, is one of the
7 largest contributors to oil in our oceans.

8 Every barrel that our company produces in
9 the Williston Basin of North Dakota, and every barrel
10 that Keystone Pipeline delivers to the United States,
11 is one less barrel that's imported via tankers. It's
12 a net positive environmentally, not just because of
13 fewer tankers coming to America.

14 For our industry in North Dakota, for
15 example, until we get more pipeline infrastructure
16 built, we're very dependent on trucks to haul our oil
17 in order to get it to market.

18 We prefer not to truck. It's costly.
19 It's more risky environmentally, and it's also a
20 safety hazard for our citizens. Building pipelines
21 such as Keystone reduces trucking, which again means
22 a cleaner and safer environment for our citizens. So

23

1 for the sake of creating jobs, for providing lower
2 energy costs for struggling citizens, for our
3 national security, reducing our trade deficit, and
4 yes, for our environment, the Keystone pipeline is
5 very, very much needed, and a step in the right
6 direction for America. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
9 I appreciate it. Number 41, please.

10 MR. TRAVIS: Hi. My name is Tim Travis.
11 I'm a Petroleum Engineering student here at the
12 University of Texas. I came over here not even
13 planning to speak. I was promised a free lunch and a
14 tee shirt, so but the lack of common sense that's
15 been talked about in here is just astounding to me.
16 There are currently 492,000 miles of pipeline in
17 America alone. That's almost half a million miles of
18 pipeline.

19 This 1,700 pipeline comprises not even a
20 third of one percent of it. So the whole talk on
21 leaks, I think number 40 talked over here about most
22 of the spill risks and what-not. It's not going to
23

1 increase a whole lot. There's tons of pipelines, a
2 half million miles of pipelines in America. We have
3 three times more than our nearest -- Russia's got a
4 third as much as we do. I don't even know what I'm
5 trying to say.

6 There is no alternative for oil right now.
7 We're not -- this pipeline has the capacity to
8 transport 830,000 barrels a day of oil. We're not
9 going to be burning 830,000 barrels a day of extra
10 oil and polluting the environment any more because of
11 that. We're just going to be getting our oil from a
12 different source.

13 Back to the point on alternative energy.
14 There's no viable alternative. If your Nissan Leaf
15 runs out of fuel and electricity, it's going to sit
16 on the side of the highway until you can tow it to
17 recharge it again.

18 I mean the practicality of oil is
19 unmatched by any other resource, and early today in
20 my drilling class, our professor, Dr. Bower was
21 talking about in the future, even if we were to not
22 use as many hydrocarbons, we were to find some other
23

1 miracle energy source that has not been found yet,
2 the infrastructure of these pipelines could be
3 converted to transport fresh water, for example, if
4 our aquifers were running low. If we need to produce
5 brine even, which is a huge problem in the oil field,
6 we can take the salt out, desalinate it and transport
7 it through these pipelines.

8 It really doesn't make sense not to build
9 it, is what I'm trying to say. Thank you. It's
10 going to put people to work; it's going to produce
11 more domestic oil. Canada's our ally, they're not
12 our enemy. We'd be supporting a nearby country that
13 we're friends with. If there was a spill, it
14 wouldn't be on water, like the Deepwater Horizon
15 disaster affected thousands of miles of coastal
16 shorelines.

17 It's not going to be like that. It's
18 going to be on land. the risk is very low. We've
19 been doing this a long time. We've laid, like I
20 said, half a million other miles of pipeline, and you
21 don't see stories in the news every day about people
22 dying from oil spills. That's all I've got to say

23

1 really. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
4 Thanks again. Number 42, please.

5 MR. BENNETT: I'm Mack Bennett with
6 Operating Engineers, B-E-N-N-E-T-T. I thank you for
7 hearing my comments. Many folks have failed to
8 comment about, mention a big portion of this
9 pipeline's capacity will be taking up American crude
10 from North Dakota to Montana. A lot of this crude,
11 25,000 barrels a day is transported over the road,
12 which is a way more dangerous way to ship oil than a
13 pipeline.

14 One of the things that happens is, you
15 know, when it spills on the freeway, the interstates
16 and stuff like that, it gets poured into the streams
17 a lot quicker. Some of the people mentioned that
18 there were 14 spills on the Keystone project. These
19 spills were very minor. These were some drips and
20 stuff. There wasn't big capacity spills, and they
21 was controlled.

22 They have response teams that monitor this

23

1 line. A lot of the folks, they have patrolmen that
2 drive these lines and stuff every day. You know,
3 with this coming down to the state of Texas, you
4 know, I'm from a small community out of Hood County,
5 and there isn't a community that wouldn't profit from
6 this. The environmental impact on this stuff, like I
7 said down in Port Arthur, our little bitty small
8 town. We had to downsize, lay off teachers and
9 stuff.

10 I'm also a firefighter here in this great
11 state of Texas. I heard somebody talk about
12 wildfires and stuff, flashpoints and stuff. It
13 doesn't make a difference in a wildfire. I was down
14 here in Bastrop, down here for maybe two weeks down
15 here fighting a wildfire. Flashpoints don't make no
16 difference. Pipeline in the ground don't make no
17 difference when you're chasing a fire.

18 But you know, one of the things that this
19 thing's going to do, it's going to put people back to
20 work. We've got a lot of our members that are losing
21 their homes and stuff, and not just professional
22 folks but the laborers and everybody else. Thank

23

1 you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
4 comments. Number 43, please.

5 MR. SMITH: Hi. I'm Lance Smith, and I
6 work for the Laborers International Union of North
7 America. I'm also a member. I'm from a town not
8 very far from Cushing, Oklahoma, where this pipeline
9 will go through. I represent workers in both
10 Oklahoma and Texas, and I own a cattle ranch in
11 Oklahoma. I lease two other cattle ranches in
12 Oklahoma. I grow my food off the land. So believe
13 me, I'm very worried about the environment. I need
14 the land for cattle, for food, for raising my family.

15 But in a time, and being so, as I said
16 that, I live near Cushing, and all my life I've never
17 remembered an oil spill or a major problem around
18 that area. But I can tell you what I remember this
19 summer. We've had to boil our water. For the first
20 time ever in my life, we're on a boil order.

21 The reason why, it's not petroleum-based
22 products leaking into groundwater. It's because we

23

1 don't have the tax dollars or the infrastructure to
2 properly prepare our water for drinking. We can't
3 keep up. We can't keep up with the growth of our
4 population. We can't pay the taxes to purify the
5 water that is clean. It should be clean enough.
6 It's E.coli that's in our water. It's not petroleum.
7 My kids can't drink it without boiling it.

8 So I encourage you to obviously for jobs,
9 but also for the money that this country and all of
10 our states need, for the infrastructure that's there,
11 to maintain it and also to build new infrastructure,
12 I encourage you to go ahead and push the pipeline
13 through. We'd appreciate it, and appreciate your
14 time in listening to us.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. I
17 appreciate it. Number 44, please.

18 MR. BENTLEY: My name's Ronnie Bentley, B-
19 E-N-T-L-E-Y. I am the business manager of Local 178
20 of the Operating Engineers. This pipeline I am for.
21 We will put a lot of people to work. I'm going to
22 speak from my heart here also. I am smarter than a

23

1 fifth grader. I want you to understand that.

2 But the main thing that I've heard out of
3 all the discussion from both sides of this thing, and
4 that's what I'm going to take back with me, because
5 number one I am an American, and I think everybody in
6 here votes, and you have a right to stand up and
7 speak in a place like this. But the gentleman that
8 was number one or two, that Mr. Petty that spoke from
9 the veterans and the military, I think that we have
10 to have a backup plan for oil, to keep our military
11 strong, so that we can meet in a building like this
12 and have open discussions.

13 Without Plan B, Plan A is turn the Middle
14 East over, and we don't have a Plan B. So I think
15 this is a Plan B that we need to put in place, just
16 for our national security, because I live in Texas.
17 I have grandchildren in Texas, and we will play in
18 Texas, and I think this will be something that we
19 have to have as Americans, to keep our way of life as
20 it is. Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
23

1 comments. Number 45, please.

2 MS. ARANA: Hi. My name is Jarynar Arana.
3 I'll spell that. J-A-R-Y-N-A-R, last name Arana, A-
4 R-A-N-A. My affiliation is I'm a student at St.
5 Edward's University.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, please proceed.

7 MS. ARANA: Hi. Thank you very much for
8 allowing me to speak. Thank you everybody for your
9 time and attention, and I am actually skipping
10 classes to be here. This is very important to me.
11 I'm here to ask you to deny a permit to the Keystone
12 XL. As a Hispanic from South Texas, I have seen
13 firsthand the injustice of pollution to low income
14 minority Americans.

15 Proponents for the Keystone XL say that
16 the project would provide jobs and meet our energy
17 demands. But the arguments often fail to mention
18 devastations to First Nation tribes from tar sands
19 extraction. 30 percent more incidents of rare bile
20 duct cancer appear in communities downstream from the
21 tar sands mines. Advertisements for Keystone XL will
22 not reveal that TransCanada has threatened to seize

23

1 private properties from working class citizens along
2 the pipeline route, including my friends in East
3 Texas.

4 The proponents will skip mention of the
5 very recent crude oil spill in the Yellowstone River
6 that devastated livelihoods of family farmers in
7 Montana. It so happens that the pipeline would be
8 built there, as well as through our drinking and
9 irrigation source, the Ogallala.

10 Pro-Keystone ads do not show the faces of
11 children suffering from leukemia in Houston and Port
12 Arthur. 56 percent are likely, within a two-mile,
13 living within a two-mile radius of refineries are
14 likely to get cancer.

15 As a native Texan with family on the Gulf
16 Coast, I cannot allow this pipeline to be granted a
17 permit, when I have seen firsthand how Gulf Coast
18 communities have suffered from oil spills. The
19 threat to our already-dwindling water supply in the
20 context of the long droughts in Texas, would kindle
21 fires we are just now recovering from.

22 The Keystone XL violates basic human
23

1 rights to clean air and water. There are many other
2 ways to develop our economy and grow jobs, without
3 jeopardizing the health of our communities. Please
4 do not grant the Keystone XL permit. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
7 comments. Number 46, please.

8 MR. STEPHENSON: My name is Philip
9 Stephenson. I'm Director of Pipeline for the United
10 Association. I'm going to change my comments up a
11 little bit from Monday night in Port Arthur. We keep
12 hearing that we're being lied to about jobs. There's
13 no way there can possibly be that many jobs. Let me
14 tell you for a fact, there will be 22 spreads on this
15 pipeline.

16 What we call a spread is the distance from
17 one end to the other of that particular division.
18 The average spread of that pipeline will consist of
19 between 750 and 1,000 employees on one spread,
20 depending on the length. There's 60 pump stations on
21 this project. Each pump station will average 80
22 employees.

23

1 So don't sit here and tell me I don't know
2 about these jobs. I've represented these individuals
3 for 20 years in the United Association, and I can
4 darn well tell you how many people it will take to
5 build this pipeline. One thing we have not realized,
6 we are trading with the nation of Canada. Of all of
7 our oil trading partners in the world, Canada is the
8 only one signed to the Kyoto Protocol, guaranteeing
9 to reduce greenhouse emissions by 17 percent.

10 We've talked about jobs, what it means to
11 us. It's a matter of keeping our homes, our families
12 in a way they've become accustomed, with a decent
13 three meals a day, a living accommodations. But it's
14 also sending our kids through college, and we expect
15 them to be in class.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. STEPHENSON: We keep hearing about the
18 15 spills on the current Keystone pipeline. There
19 has been 15 spills. So far since this pipeline has
20 been in operation, they've probably transported close
21 to 150 million barrels of oil from the tar sands to
22 Patoka, Illinois. Of those 15 spills, you're

23

1 probably talking less than 600 barrels. All of them
2 have been above ground, cleaned up without incident.
3 When the spills happened, the United Association is
4 the one that went in and fixed it.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Sir?

7 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Yes. I appreciate it.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: 47, please.

12 MR. TERAN: Yes. My name is Robert Teran,

13 T-E-R-A-N. I'm a business representative for

14 Operating Engineers Local 178, Dallas-Fort Worth.

15 After more than three years in the permitting

16 process, it is critical that the State Department

17 move forward and approve this Keystone XL project.

18 The construction industry needs this massive private

19 investment right now.

20 The construction sector has had

21 Depression-era unemployment levels. The unemployment

22 rate is the highest of any industry in the nation.

23

1 Over one million construction workers were unemployed
2 in August during the peak of the construction season.
3 It is time to move this project forward. We need to
4 see the economic benefits of this project for our
5 communities and the construction industry as soon as
6 possible.

7 The project will employ thousands of
8 construction workers. They will spend their wages on
9 mortgages, car payments, groceries and everything
10 else, creating more jobs, more tax revenue and more
11 benefits for our communities. Please find the
12 Keystone XL project in the national interest, and
13 approve the Presidential permit. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to speak today.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
17 comments. Number 48, please.

18 MR. EDEN: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Bill Eden, E-D-E-N. I am an International
20 representative of the United Association, the UA of
21 Plumbers and Pipefitters. The UA represents over
22 340,000 workers in the piping industry, including

23

1 thousands of folks who live and work in Texas. They
2 are the qualified; they are the trained to install
3 these pipelines.

4 The UA supports the Keystone XL pipeline,
5 even though it will be built with both union and non-
6 union labor. The Keystone pipeline will transport
7 oil not only from Canada but from Montana, North
8 Dakota, into Oklahoma, Texas and the Gulf Coast.
9 Without it, the oil will still be pumped, but it will
10 be transported by truck and by rail. That's
11 expensive, inefficient and dangerous.

12 The pipeline will take thousands of trucks
13 off the road, and help expand our own domestic oil
14 production. Currently, our gasoline dollars support
15 oil imports from foreign dictators. Instead, we
16 should produce our own oil and buy it from our ally
17 Canada, and ship it safely by pipeline, rather to
18 enrich our enemies and clog our highways and sea
19 lanes with unsafe tankers and trucks that will
20 eventually cause massive spills.

21 Some say the Keystone pipeline will cause
22 production of oil by environmentally harmful methods.

23

1 However, even with a pipeline, that oil will still be
2 produced and shipped here on thousands of trucks.

3 Shipped by truck is even more environmentally
4 harmful. Without the pipeline, we buy oil from
5 places like Nigeria, without environmental
6 regulations at all. At least Canada has
7 environmental laws to control their oil production.

8 The Canadian oil fields have recently
9 reduced their pollution by about 40 percent. I doubt
10 if we've seen those levels of pollution reduction in
11 the oil fields of Nigeria. The environmental impact
12 study of the pipeline also concluded that the
13 Canadian oil is similar to the oil we currently ship
14 in our pipelines, contrary to some critics who claim
15 it is especially toxic.

16 The UA supports development of the energy
17 sources that don't rely on oil. Development of our
18 electric supply with more solar, nuclear and natural
19 gas power plants would allow us to convert more cars
20 to run on electricity, rather than gasoline from oil.
21 Unless we adopt those solutions, we will need oil for
22 decades, and the pipeline will achieve that goal.

23

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
4 comments. Number 49, please.

5 MR. POWELL: My name is Kenneth Powell.

6 I'm with --

7 COURT REPORTER: Repeat that, sir.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Yes.

9 MR. POWELL: My name is Kenneth Powell.

10 I'm with the Operating Engineers, and our local
11 covers the north half of Texas. Somebody mentioned
12 the qualified locals that they would be employing on
13 this pipeline. We have members all over East Texas,
14 and there will be among us qualified locals that go
15 to work there.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. POWELL: This project is a shovel-
18 ready project. When our government needs a good
19 project, the money for everything else and these
20 other stimulus's doesn't, you know, comes from the
21 government. This is private money coming to us.

22 It would be a project where that money

23

1 would then be turned over to our state and local
2 governments to be used as they see needed. It would
3 also do a lot of funding for our local areas, as far
4 as schools just like this one we're at currently.

5 The environmental impact study has already
6 been done. They've been working on this. It's been
7 a three-year permitting process. Part of that is
8 this public hearing. There's also been public
9 hearings in all of the areas that are directly
10 affected by the putting in of the pipeline. So I see
11 no reason why we shouldn't move for the President to
12 allow this permit. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
15 I appreciate it. Number 50, please.

16 MR. STOLPER: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Sid Stolper. I'm the Vice President for the 5th
18 District of the United Association. We represent the
19 interests of more than 240,000 workers in the United
20 States, and we include the tens of thousands of
21 peoples that live in the 11 western states that I
22 represent as their vice president.

23

1 The UA strongly supports the construction
2 and operation of the proposed XL pipeline, Keystone
3 XL pipeline. Many members who will work on the
4 pipeline will be from us, but that's not the only
5 reason we support this. We also support the pipeline
6 because of the public policy, the socio-economic
7 benefits, and because it's to be constructed and
8 operated in an environmentally sensitive and safe
9 manner.

10 From the standpoint of public safety, I
11 suggest it is better to encourage economic production
12 of our own domestic supplies in the Dakotas and
13 Montana, and to arrange to have a safe method of
14 transportation of oil from our ally Canada, as
15 opposed to financially supporting unstable,
16 unfriendly countries, who ship oil to us in tankers,
17 who we cannot control or monitor. They're often in
18 substantive unrest.

19 Construction of the pipeline would
20 directly create thousands of good-paying jobs. It
21 will also ensure a steady supply of oil to refineries
22 in the Midwest, Oklahoma, Texas and the Gulf Coast.

23

1 This will help protect the tens of thousands of jobs
2 of the people that already work in those areas, and
3 help to create great economies and vibrant, growing
4 economies for the U.S.

5 Like it or not, our economy runs on oil.
6 We are making great strides to reduce our country's
7 oil usage, but until -- but we are still using, we
8 still have the need for oil and reliable oil supplies
9 at reasonable cost for many years, to keep this
10 economy functioning. The XL pipeline will do that.

11 The UA also supports parallel efforts in
12 developing alternative sources of energy that don't
13 rely on oil. With or without the pipeline, crude
14 will also continue to be processed in the Gulf
15 States, and will continue to be utilized and
16 supported by our nation.

17 In conclusion, we believe that jobs and
18 the economy can peacefully co-exist with that of the
19 environment. We do need to reduce our dependence on
20 oil, but until we do that, we still need projects
21 such as the XL pipeline. Thank you for your time.

22 (Applause.)

23

1 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name,
2 sir. Sir, can you spell your last name again sir?

3 MR. STOLPER: S-T-O-L-P-E-R.

4 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Number
6 51, please.

7 MR. SHELTON: Yes ma'am, thank you. My
8 name is Corby Shelton, S-H-E-L-T-O-N. I'm the
9 business manager of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local
10 Union 286 here in Austin, Texas. I am the president
11 of the Central Texas Building and Construction Trades
12 Council, and the Vice President of the Texas Building
13 and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.

14 I'm here today to support the Keystone XL
15 pipeline project, and would like to respectfully
16 encourage the U.S. Department of State to
17 expeditiously approve a Presidential permit. An
18 energy infrastructure project of this magnitude,
19 funded exclusively with private money, is precisely
20 what the U.S. economy, U.S. consumers and U.S.
21 workers need.

22 Americans should be extremely supportive

23

1 of a development that will reduce the dependence on
2 oil from politically unstable oil-producing regions,
3 while boosting job creation with private sector
4 investments and help keep prices in check as the
5 economy fights to recover.

6 The Keystone XL pipeline will create some
7 10,000 critically needed construction jobs, and it is
8 estimated this project will generate an additional
9 300 to 350,000 jobs in other affected industries,
10 including the manufacturing and service industries
11 over the next five years.

12 The economic impact of constructing the
13 Keystone XL pipeline in Texas is expected to
14 stimulate over \$2 billion in new spending for the
15 state economy, almost \$50 million in additional state
16 and local tax revenues, and just under \$2 billion in
17 increased gross state product.

18 The U.S. Department of State has completed
19 its due diligence in evaluating the environmental
20 impact of the pipeline, collaborating with at least
21 ten other federal agencies, including the
22 Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of

1 the Interior.

2 The draft environmental impact statement
3 concludes that the proposed Keystone XL pipeline
4 would result in limited adverse environmental impacts
5 during both construction and operation.

6 TransCanada, the pipeline operator, has
7 stated that it will restore property to its original
8 productivity level, and will work diligently with
9 landowners on specific issues. Pipelines remain the
10 safest, most reliable and environmentally favorable
11 means of transporting oil and other petroleum
12 products.

13 With over 500,000 miles of existing
14 pipelines in the United States, including the
15 TransAlaska pipeline, which has safely transported
16 over 16 billion barrels of oil since its
17 construction. The Keystone XL will be built under
18 far superior codes and inspection criteria than any
19 pipeline in the history of the industry, capable of
20 transporting over 900,000 barrels per day; the number
21 of oil tankers entering the Gulf of Mexico to reach
22 Texas refineries will be dramatically reduced. Sorry

23

1 about that. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you very much.
4 Thank you for your comments. Number 52, please.

5 MR. HUNTER: My name is Dan Hunter, H-U-N-
6 T-E-R, and I'm an environmental manager at
7 ConocoPhillips in Houston. I strongly support the
8 Keystone XL pipeline. This project is an investment
9 in America. The positive economic impact of the
10 Keystone pipeline system is clear. It creates jobs,
11 injects private sector spending into the economy, and
12 generates needed tax revenues.

13 Sound investments of this size do not come
14 along every day, let alone when our country is
15 recovering from the worst economic recession since
16 World War II remains fragile. I deeply share the
17 President's desire to provide opportunities to put
18 people back to work. Without question, the Keystone
19 XL project will contribute to that goal.

20 According to independent studies, the
21 Keystone XL pipeline project will create 20,000 new
22 jobs; increase America's personal income by 6.5

23

1 billion, with a B, dollars. During the construction
2 period, the project is expected to generate some \$585
3 million in state and local taxes along the pipeline
4 route, and stimulate more than 20 billion new
5 spending for the U.S. economy.

6 In the state of Texas alone, the pipeline
7 will create \$2.3 billion in new spending for the
8 Texas economy, and \$48 million in additional state
9 and local tax revenues. Furthermore, approving the
10 pipeline will create more than 50,300 person years of
11 employment in this state, and increase the personal
12 income of Texans by \$1.6 billion.

13 The United States also has an
14 unprecedented opportunity to enhance our energy
15 partnership with Canada, a trusted ally with a long
16 history of mutual economic and national security
17 interests. Canada is endowed with the third largest
18 oil resources in the world, and we can be a direct
19 beneficiary.

20 The Keystone XL pipeline provides a
21 physical link to these resources, to enhance U.S.
22 energy security. With North America's vast energy

1 resources comes an obligation to develop and deliver
2 them responsibly. Pipeline infrastructure is the
3 safest, most efficient and environmentally
4 responsible way to transport petroleum over long
5 distances.

6 ConocoPhillips' support of the Keystone XL
7 pipeline is twofold. First, we have significant
8 holdings in Alberta's oil sands resource base that we
9 would like to bring to the U.S. markets.

10 Second, we have several refineries from
11 the mid-continent to the Gulf Coast, that could
12 purchase crude oil transported on this pipeline and
13 convert it into imported products to meet our energy
14 needs.

15 Some U.S. refineries are especially
16 designed to process heavy crude oils. Many are
17 located along the Gulf Coast. They are capable of
18 processing Canadian oil sands crude to the cleanest-
19 burning fuels in the world. 46 percent of the total
20 refining capacity in the United States is on the Gulf
21 Coast.

22 The Department of State's environmental
23

1 impact statement points out that 60 percent of this
2 region's crude supply --

3 MS. COLEMAN: Sorry sir. Yeah. Those
4 comments, please, please, submit them among others.
5 We didn't have enough time. I appreciate your
6 understanding.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Number 53, please.

9 MR. TURNER: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
10 My name is Darrell Turner, D-A-R-R-E-L-L, Turner, T-
11 U-R-N-E-R.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

13 MR. TURNER: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm a
14 husband, I'm a father, I'm a veteran, I'm a
15 pipeliner. We build pipelines throughout the United
16 States of America and around the world.

17 As a business agent for Pipeliners Local
18 Union 798 out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, I represent the
19 most highly trained pipeline welders in the world,
20 and our union will be instrumental in constructing
21 the Keystone XL from the Canadian border south into
22 Texas, under a project labor agreement that has been

23

1 signed, sealed and delivered for over two years.

2 We're ready to go to work.

3 We will build this pipeline except for the
4 last two spreads in Texas, that I understand will be
5 non-union, and I can't tell you who the companies
6 are. But I can tell you this. Where skilled union
7 pipeline welders are used, TransCanada's commitment
8 to building the best pipeline is assured.

9 I have helped build pipelines in the
10 United States, Alaska, the Middle East, South America
11 and the North Sea. Nowhere else on this earth of
12 ours have I witnessed the environmental concerns and
13 the construction skills that are used on every
14 pipeline that's built union by fair contractors.

15 In fact, our contractors will build the
16 most solidly-built, environmentally friendly and
17 mechanically sophisticated oil pipeline ever built.
18 In my 45 year career as a builder of pipelines, I can
19 tell you that this is the truth, and the damn thing
20 won't leak.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. TURNER: In closing, I want to tell my
23

1 environmental friends here that I would never harm
2 the environment. On the contrary, blue sky and clear
3 drinking water are important to me. But what is most
4 important to me is those young men in the Middle East
5 that are protecting Americans while we get that oil
6 back to America, and that money can be spent to buy
7 bullets, so those America haters can kill more
8 Americans.

9 Let's build this pipeline from Canada, and
10 let's bring this group of young men and women home.
11 Thank you and support Keystone.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
14 Number 54, please.

15 MR. McMILLAN: My name is Les McMillan, M-
16 C-M-I-L-L-A-N. I'm the manager of Corporate
17 Emergency Response for ConocoPhillips in Houston.
18 I'm here today to talk about energy security. I want
19 to express strong support for the Keystone XL
20 pipeline being planned by TransCanada.

21 The Keystone XL pipeline opens new markets
22 for crude oil produced both in Canada and the United

23

1 States, and provides new supplies for Gulf Coast and
2 other inland refineries along its route. The Gulf
3 Coast is critically important to energy security
4 because nearly half of the total U.S. refining
5 capacity is located there. Many of these refineries
6 are specially designed to process heavy crude oils
7 like Canadian oil sands, and they're capable of
8 converting heavy crude oils into the cleanest-burning
9 fuels in the world.

10 Maintaining a competitive edge for these
11 refineries goes hand in hand with ensuring our energy
12 security. I urge the Department of State to find
13 this infrastructure project favorable for our
14 national interest, to create jobs and improve energy
15 security. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
18 comments. I appreciate it. Number 55, please.

19 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you for allowing me
20 to speak at this meeting. My name is Black
21 Schroeder. I'm a business rep -- S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R.
22 I'm a business representative for Pipeliners Local
23

1 Union 798, and a proud member of the United
2 Association. I'm a life-long resident of Beaumont,
3 Texas. I've made my living for over 30 years as a
4 pipeline welder. Now I represent 7,000 pipeline
5 workers.

6 The Keystone pipeline is the largest, most
7 controversial pipeline project ever been built in
8 America. I've researched and listened to a lot of
9 opinions. Everyone has a valid point. The bottom
10 line is the Keystone pipeline will create jobs, and
11 thousands of Americans stand to benefit from the
12 revenue.

13 What a better way to stimulate the
14 American economy with TransCanada picking up the tab.
15 I understand that as a country, we need to look at as
16 many environmentally friendly approaches as possible.
17 I do believe this country needs organizations that
18 are concerned about our environment. Our environment
19 is something we should not take lightly.

20 I support natural gas powered vehicles,
21 wind power, solar power and nuclear energy, but we're
22 not quite there yet. As the greatest country in the

1 world, we cannot afford to go backwards in time. If
2 you cut off all supplies of fossil fuel right now,
3 millions of people on the Gulf Coast and other parts
4 of America would lose their jobs. This nation would
5 come to a complete standstill.

6 We do have green contractors that have a
7 highly trained skilled workforce. For decades, they
8 have been building, working under FERC guidelines and
9 also DOT. They are experts in protecting our
10 environment and building pipelines right. The
11 Keystone pipeline and pumping stations does not need
12 to be built by some cheap contractor that does not
13 hire American citizens.

14 We need American jobs for American
15 workers. If a pipeline is built right, it's the
16 safest, cheapest, most reliable way to transport oil.
17 Billions of gallons of oil are transported through
18 thousands of miles of pipelines each year, with very
19 few incidents. At the present time, it makes perfect
20 sense, even common sense, to approve the Keystone
21 pipeline, with Canada being the largest oil supplier
22 to the U.S.

23

1 We can sit back and watch China buy it and
2 then sell it back to us at a much higher cost, or we
3 can put America back to work. We all would like to
4 live the American dream. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
7 Number 56, please.

8 MR. MARSHALL TREADWELL: My name is
9 Marshall Treadwell, T-R-E-A-D-W-E-L-L. I'm a
10 landowner in East Texas, and this pipeline is not
11 coming by my farm; it's coming through my farm. In
12 fact, 3,300 feet will be on my farm. We've owned
13 this property now for five generations. In fact,
14 some of those fifth generations are probably down
15 there playing right now while I'm away.

16 But this pipeline will come through there,
17 and at present, there are four other pipelines
18 running through the property. We've had no problems
19 with leaks. None of the family has cancer. We've
20 not had any problems and these pipelines were built
21 back in the 30's and 40's.

22 I think our pipeline technologies has

23

1 improved a little bit since these were there. I was
2 very interested in looking at seeing how deep these
3 pipelines were buried, and so I went back and looked
4 at some of my old right-of-way agreements, and the
5 agreement was that these pipelines that were built in
6 the 30's and 40's would be at least plow level deep.
7 So I can plow over the top of them.

8 When the company came by and talked to us
9 about the right-of-way coming through there, not one
10 time did I feel threatened, misled, berated, lied to
11 or whatever. They did a professional job of telling
12 us what they needed. We responded with what we
13 needed, and we came to an agreement. I never once
14 felt that they were trying to take my land.

15 When talking about spills, we know the
16 reason they're building this pipeline, and they're
17 not building it for our benefit, to ship oil down
18 here to us, etcetera. They're building it to make a
19 profit. Spilled oil is not profitable. It's a big
20 expense. So the company is going to do everything
21 they can to mitigate any kinds of spills from this
22 pipeline.

23

1 Will there be mishaps? Probably so. Will
2 it be disastrous? No. There was another pipeline
3 built years ago that was going to just destroy the
4 environment. That was the Alaska pipeline. The only
5 environment that was hurt was when one of the
6 tankers, after the pipeline picked up that oil, and
7 that was the spill there.

8 So that pipeline has done fairly well. I
9 think this pipeline should go ahead and be built, and
10 I think it will be of a big benefit to our state and
11 our nation. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
14 I appreciate it. Number 57, please.

15 MS. SIGALOS: Thank you. My name is Dana
16 Sigalos, S-I-G-A-L-O-S. I'm Stakeholder Relations
17 Manager for ConocoPhillips in Houston, Texas, and I
18 want to express my strong support for the Keystone XL
19 pipeline project being planned by TransCanada.

20 The United States has an unprecedented
21 opportunity to enhance our energy cooperation with
22 Canada, a trusted ally with a long history of mutual

23

1 economic and national security interests, as well as
2 a highly valued trading partner. Canada is endowed
3 with the third largest oil reserves in the world.

4 The Keystone XL pipeline would provide a
5 physical link to these resources, and enhance U.S.
6 energy security. Specifically, the Keystone pipeline
7 opens new markets for crude oil produced both in
8 Canada and the U.S., and provides new supplies for
9 Gulf Coast and other inland refineries along its
10 route.

11 The State Department's supplemental draft
12 environmental impact statement points out that some
13 40 countries supplied crude oil to Gulf Coast
14 refineries in 2009. More than 60 percent of the Gulf
15 Coast crude supply came from four countries, Mexico,
16 Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria. The EIS also
17 states that crude oil availability for Mexico and
18 Venezuela has declined steadily, and is expected to
19 continue dropping in the years ahead.

20 This outlook underscores the importance of
21 diverse and reliable sources of crude oil to our
22 nation's energy security. In every scenario study,

23

1 DIS found that increased imports of Canadian crude
2 oil will reduce U.S. imports of foreign oil from
3 sources outside of North America. We should not
4 weaken our energy security by denying the
5 infrastructure needed to strategically access North
6 America's oil resources.

7 Maintaining a competitive edge for
8 refineries in the U.S. goes hand in hand with
9 ensuring our energy security. The long-term
10 competitiveness of our U.S. refineries depends on
11 having flexibility to access the most economical
12 sources of crude oil, and an efficient means to
13 deliver them to market.

14 I urge the State Department to find the
15 significant infrastructure to be favorable to our
16 national interest, to create jobs, bolster the
17 economy and improve energy security. I respectfully
18 request that the President approve TransCanada's
19 application for a cross-border permit to construct
20 the Keystone XL pipeline. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
23

1 comments. Number 58, please.

2 MS. VENABLE: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Peggy Venable, V as in Victor, E-N-A-B-L-E. I am
4 State Director of Americans for Prosperity. We have
5 1.8 million members nationwide and 106,000 members
6 here in Texas. We believe the Keystone pipeline
7 expansion will provide jobs, economic security and
8 energy security, and we support the expansion.

9 You know, energy drives our economy, and
10 the Lone Star state, as well as the nation, has much
11 to gain from this expansion project. I don't need to
12 remind people here that the U.S. unemployment rate is
13 now at 9.1 percent, and 14 million Americans are out
14 of work.

15 This pipeline is expected to directly
16 impact job creation in our economy in a most positive
17 manner. We can dicker over the jobs. No one is
18 saying this will not create a substantial number of
19 jobs. Moreover, if we fail to approve this project,
20 China and other nations will tap into these vast
21 resources of the Alberta tar sands. If we don't take
22 action, other countries will.

23

1 We encourage the administration to act
2 now. Delays in approving this project hurt U.S.
3 energy development and hurt U.S. consumers. While
4 opponents of the Keystone pipeline project expansion
5 might think they're saving the environment by
6 blocking this line, that simply is not so.

7 Let's face it. Without the line,
8 Canadians will sell the oil to other countries, and
9 they will export it, as others have mentioned, in oil
10 tankers and the risk to the environment is much
11 greater. The more energy we import to our country,
12 the more tankers that are crossing the oceans, and
13 pipelines truly are the most efficient and cleanest
14 way to transport volumes of oil.

15 We at Americans for Prosperity encourage
16 you to approve this project, so Americans can start
17 reaping the rewards in lower energy prices, greater
18 energy security and job creation, so more Americans
19 have the opportunity to enjoy the American dream.
20 Thank you so much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

23

1 Hello. Are you 58 or 59?

2 MR. TREADWELL: 59.

3 MS. COLEMAN: 59, thank you.

4 MR. TOMMY TREADWELL: My name is Tommy
5 Treadwell, T-R-E-A-D-W-E-L-L, the same as number 57.
6 We are landowners, Russ County in East Texas. We've
7 got several pipelines running across our property,
8 crossing some water, rivers, lakes. We have had no
9 contamination, and these are the old style pipelines,
10 the old built many years ago.

11 The pipeline construction crews and the
12 oil companies have responded to us quickly and
13 responsible, compensated us for any damages and
14 returned the land back to a better condition than it
15 was before they started. I support the jobs that
16 this pipeline would create, and I support our oil
17 independency, so let's get her done. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
20 Number 60, please.

21 MR. LEBAS: Good afternoon. My name is
22 James Lebas, spelled just the way it sounds, L-E-B-A-

23

1 S. I'm speaking on behalf of the Texas Oil and Gas
2 Association. TEXOGA strongly supports the Keystone
3 XL pipeline project. TEXOGA is the largest and
4 oldest petroleum organization in Texas, representing
5 over 4,000 members. Our members produce over 90
6 percent of the oil and gas produced in the state, and
7 operates nearly 100 percent of the state's refineries
8 and the majority of the pipeline infrastructure as
9 well.

10 The oil and gas industry employs 315,000
11 Texans, which provides more than \$30 billion a year
12 in direct annual payroll and benefits, to say nothing
13 of the significant secondary impact that comes from
14 the spending of the industry. Texas is the single
15 largest refining state in the union, with 4.8 million
16 barrels per day in capacity. That's 27 percent of
17 the entire United States capacity right here.

18 We supply the fuels that move people and
19 commerce across the United States. Texas also has
20 some of the most sophisticated refineries found
21 anywhere in the world. These refineries have been
22 retooled to convert lower cost heavy grades of

1 petroleum into the fuels that we need.

2 For the past couple of decades, Mexico and
3 Venezuela have been the primary suppliers of heavy
4 crude to the Gulf Coast as you know, but as you may
5 also know, the State Department's environmental
6 impact statement has indicated that is changing.
7 Without an adequate supply of heavy crude, the
8 economic penalty could be severe for Texas and for
9 the United States.

10 The Keystone XL pipeline is not just an
11 infrastructure project; it's a supply lifeline for
12 some of our Texas refineries, and in addition to
13 benefiting our refineries, the XL pipeline is a
14 capital project. It will stimulate our economy, all
15 with private sector investment.

16 According to an economic impact study, the
17 pipeline will inject \$2.3 billion in spending into
18 the Texas economy, generate 1.6 billion in personal
19 income, provide a billion dollars in property tax
20 revenue over its life, and in the construction phase
21 alone, \$48 million to Texas state and local
22 governments.

23

1 The Keystone XL pipeline provides a means
2 to help secure our energy future, and build upon a
3 strong relationship with Canada, our largest trading
4 partner and trusted ally on matters of national
5 interest. We should seize the opportunity to link
6 our nation to the third largest resources in the
7 world in Canada, and it will also open up the Gulf
8 Coast markets for our domestically produced crudes.
9 The XL pipeline places that opportunity right at our
10 doorstep.

11 Texas is the nation's largest single state
12 for oil production. We produce a million barrels a
13 day. But we refine over four million barrels a day.
14 The other three million barrels have to come from
15 somewhere. They're going to come in a pipe or in a
16 boat. We prefer that they come from a pipe from our
17 friends to the north, than in a boat from parts
18 unknown.

19 A decision about Keystone XL has more than
20 permitting an infrastructure project. It's vital to
21 our energy security for decades to come, providing
22 much needed gain --

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, unfortunately we've
2 reached the end of the time.

3 MR. LEBAS: Thank you very much.

4 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate it. Please put
5 your comments to the table at the back.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: This would be now number 61,
8 please.

9 MS. NARANJO: Yes, hi. Katy Naranjo from
10 Lufkin, Texas.

11 COURT REPORTER: Once again?

12 MS. NARANJO: Katy Naranjo, N-A-R-A-N-J-O,
13 proud Lufkin Panther from Lufkin, Texas. So just to
14 clear up a few points. I think we all agree.
15 America needs more jobs, and we need more American
16 jobs and Americans working for products that we have
17 in our country. We also need more energy resources,
18 you know. There are finite resources we're dealing
19 with.

20 But what we don't need is a foreign oil
21 company shipping dirty products in a broken pipeline
22 to a country where we don't know where it's going,

23

1 and using us as its waste water kind of shuffle out,
2 because Canada doesn't want the pipeline in its
3 country because it doesn't meet Canadian standards.

4 I'm from Lufkin, Texas, and I've seen so
5 many jobs lost in our home town. The last paper mill
6 that actually left Lufkin and went to Canada was the
7 last large union we had in our city, and it's gone
8 now. So I understand the need for jobs, and I
9 understand that there is a need to make sure we have
10 energy resources.

11 But we need to do it our way. We need to
12 make sure that its clean energy, and that we're
13 respecting the landowners. I've been working for the
14 past almost six months now in East Texas with local
15 elected officials, and I can guarantee you. The
16 county commissioner in Cherokee County who was
17 bargaining with TransCanada, trying to get jobs for
18 her folks locally, was not given any guarantees.

19 I can tell you that the city manager in
20 Lufkin, Texas, who's an engineer, is severely
21 concerned about what's coming through that pipeline,
22 and the actual width of the pipe itself. He agrees.

23

1 There are pipelines all throughout East Texas. In
2 fact, I've got like five in my backyard. But they
3 knew what was in the pipe. They made sure the pipe
4 was to regulation, and they made sure they had the
5 oversight.

6 That is not being guaranteed here. There
7 are some severe flaws in the EIS that was done by the
8 State Department, and we need to make sure that the
9 folks who are going to be affected by this most are
10 given the information.

11 Why doesn't TransCanada tell us what's in
12 that pipeline? Why doesn't TransCanada tell us how
13 they're going to be laying it and give us the, you
14 know, industry secrets? They're going to be on my
15 property, on my neighbor's property. We need to know
16 before it goes down. Don't lay until you check the
17 turf. Thanks.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thanks for your comments.
20 Number 62, please.

21 MR. PERRY: Hi there. My name is David
22 Perry, P-E-R-R-Y. I'm here as a neighbor, a

23

1 Cubmaster, a soccer coach and an unemployed dad of
2 three. I'm here to support Keystone XL. I'm worried
3 about the future of America and our kids' future. We
4 are continually moving away from what made our
5 country strong in the first place. America wants
6 their luxuries and spoiled lifestyles, and yet we
7 don't want to produce in America or step forward to
8 keeping American jobs.

9 We need to live here and stop restricting
10 industry in America, on the chance of accidents. I
11 would love to live in a utopia, but let's be
12 realistic. We will need this oil in the future. But
13 where will America be then? I for one can't afford a
14 new energy efficient car or solar panels, but I know
15 it's not the government's job to provide them to me.
16 The government can't print more money. We need to
17 bring America back to where it was and American jobs.

18 I support approval of Keystone, because
19 it's a national priority to lessen our dependency on
20 foreign oil. On March 31st, 2011, President Obama
21 committed to make plans to cut foreign oil imports to
22 the U.S. by one-third, and that Canada remain a

1 secure supplier of oil, Canada would remain a secure
2 supplier of oil to America.

3 This year, the House Energy and Commerce
4 Committee passed legislation that would require the
5 President to decide on the KXL project by November
6 1st, 2011, in recognition of the national interest
7 implications of energy security and economic growth.
8 I personally have an uncle who lives in North Texas,
9 that has pipelines running across his property. It
10 has saved his ranch and has had no adverse effects to
11 his family and health or anything negative.

12 I also have on the flip side have family
13 that lives on reservations, Native Americans that
14 live on reservations that, because of these over the
15 top environmental rules, because we might hurt
16 something, they live in poverty. They don't have
17 energy; they don't have the things they need. They
18 can't use their own land because of these over the
19 top environmental laws.

20 For those reasons and the facts, I support
21 the Keystone XL approval, and I urge the Department
22 of State to approve the Presidential permit that will

23

1 allow its construction. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
4 Number 63, please.

5 MS. SANCHEZ: Yes. My name is Marion
6 Sanchez, S-A-N-C-H-E-Z. I'm a U.S. citizen and small
7 business owner here in Austin. I support the
8 Keystone XL project. This project will create
9 thousands of jobs for America, and will invest
10 billions of dollars for the U.S. economy. With high
11 unemployment rates across the country, this project
12 can help Americans in a time of great needs.

13 A word in Spanish to my friends who speak
14 Spanish. (Speaking in Spanish) Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
17 Number 64, please.

18 MR. MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ: Hi. I'm Michael
19 Rodriguez. I'm a student here at the University
20 studying Petroleum Engineering from Corpus Christi,
21 Texas, and I'm also here particularly to talk on
22 behalf of everyone from Corpus, who has seen the
23

1 downside of industry. I've had the opposite
2 opportunity, and the opportunity to actually work in
3 the field in Bishop, Texas, just a stone's throw. I
4 worked in PNA specifically, taking old wells out of
5 commission, sealing off water sources from them to
6 keep our water tables clean.

7 Corpus Christi has the best tap water I've
8 ever tasted, and we'd like to keep it that way. I'd
9 like to speak on behalf of everyone from the
10 community who have seen the benefit, the people who
11 get to feed their families every day.

12 Personally, my dad's a truck driver, long
13 haul. Last year, he was out over 300 days out of the
14 year, and I know for a fact it would have been pretty
15 cool over the last 20-something years if he'd been
16 home every day after welding pipe, laying pipeline
17 instead. It's not safe trucking, or even Naval
18 shipping.

19 Pipeline is so much safer in the same
20 volumes than to individually send out trucking units
21 and tankers across the ocean. So keep that in mind
22 that we're going to get this energy from somewhere.

23

1 As a freshman, they love to throw numbers
2 at us on future growth, energy consumption, and the
3 one that stuck with me was just this big number on
4 future undiscovered resources that it's my job in two
5 years to come up with, to discover all these
6 unconventional plays, shale plays, tar sands, and now
7 we're being told that sorry, we can't make use of
8 those. We're better off buying from a hostile
9 monarchy than from Canada. Well, I'd like to debate
10 that. So I'm pro-pipeline. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
13 Number 65, please.

14 MR. REEVES: Hi. My name's Michael
15 Reeves, R-E-E-V-E-S, and I'm president of the Ports
16 to Plains Corridor Coalition out of Lubbock, Texas,
17 and our membership in our organization represents
18 cities, counties, chambers of commerce from
19 communities, all the way from Cahuilla, Mexico
20 through ten U.S. states up to Alberta, Canada, and
21 our members are proud supporters of the Keystone XL
22 pipeline.

23

1 In fact, I have a letter with me of
2 support, signed by about 50 state or 50 local elected
3 officials, including mayors, county judges, county
4 elected officials. Our folks obviously live right
5 along many of the areas where the pipeline will be
6 running and we're an agricultural area.

7 So we're obviously very concerned about
8 the impact on the -- the potential impact on the
9 Ogallala aquifer. So we appreciate the work by the
10 State Department in the EIS, finding that the
11 pipeline will be safe for the aquifer, by communities
12 that would depend on it. We appreciate that.

13 We look at the energy security fact and
14 the fact that Keystone XL will divert up to, displace
15 up to half the oil imports we get from the Middle
16 East right now, and replace that with safe, secure
17 supply from Canada. We've seen the impact that it
18 has on our economy, when instability rises in the
19 Middle East and the price spikes of oil, and we never
20 have to worry about that with Canada. It's safe and
21 secure, and we don't have to worry about the
22 Canadians turning off the spigot of oil to our

23

1 country.

2 Finally, our communities are worried about
3 the economic impact, and we see great benefits for
4 that, with more than 20,000 jobs and \$5.2 billion in
5 tax revenues. For small communities up and down this
6 corridor who are cutting their budgets and seeing the
7 impact on services, this tax revenue, increased
8 revenue can be a big benefit for us.

9 Also, it helps our communities who support
10 the oil and gas development in Alberta, who are
11 shipping oil fuel equipment, drilling equipment,
12 pipe, trucking steel. I had a call from a Canadian
13 company looking for backhauls, because they're buying
14 so much Texas steel to develop the Alberta oil fields
15 right now.

16 So we see it as a tremendous opportunity
17 to create jobs, not just in the construction of the
18 pipeline, but in the affiliated industries that will
19 support the industry in the future. So thank you
20 very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
23

1 comments. Number 66, please. 66? 67?

2 MS. DAVIS: My name is Tricia Davis. I'm
3 president of the Texas Royalty Council. I represent
4 more than 500,000 Texans. I'm also the director of
5 American Royalty Council, representing royalty owners
6 throughout the United States, whose families rely on
7 a healthy and robust oil and gas industry to provide
8 much-needed royalties.

9 Oil and gas is also important to our
10 school districts, counties and hospitals, who also
11 rely on their income. I thank you for the
12 opportunity to speak. With the extremely high
13 national unemployment rate, now is the time for the
14 Obama Administration to not ride the fence on new job
15 creations. I appreciate the State Department's
16 efforts to push forward the Keystone pipeline, and
17 these hearings are an important step towards that.

18 The Texas Royalty Council and American
19 Royalty Council favor all measures to utilize our
20 domestic energy resources, to benefit this country
21 with job creation and economic growth. This pipeline
22 will be picking up crude from Montana and North

23

1 Dakota, much of which is owned by private mineral
2 owners.

3 Although Alberta oil sands are not
4 domestic resources, their proximity to the U.S., the
5 friendly relationship the country enjoys with our
6 neighbors to the north, and the fact that these
7 resources will be refined in the U.S., make them the
8 next best thing. Current laws restricting much of
9 the nation's potential energy production on land and
10 offshore require that we turn elsewhere for oil and
11 gas required to power the economy. Where better to
12 find those than Canada?

13 America currently relies on imports to
14 support our growing energy demands, as you know,
15 which is expected to increase by 21 percent through
16 2035. Understanding the amount of energy it took to
17 bring us all here today and there being no horses
18 hitched at the curb, makes me believe the statistic
19 won't change any time soon.

20 In recent months, we have witnessed the
21 problem of giving OPEC nations too much of the
22 world's energy supplies. Prices fluctuated wildly in
23

1 response to Arabic Spring. More oil needs to be
2 produced to counter these countries' ability to have
3 as much heavy impact on our fuel prices. While the
4 U.S. has been hesitant to tap domestic resources,
5 Canada has not.

6 The Keystone XL pipeline will also
7 increase our U.S. energy security. We will not have
8 to so greatly rely on Venezuela and the Middle East
9 for imports. The Alberta oil sands are going to be
10 developed with or without the approval of the XL
11 pipeline, but a failure to approve the project would
12 mean the U.S. is actively not capitalizing on jobs
13 and growth when the opportunity is readily available.

14 Thousands of direct and indirect U.S.
15 jobs, tens of billions of gross domestic product
16 growth, these figures can't be ignored. I appreciate
17 the concerns of Nebraska, and understand that the
18 state wants to ensure their water supplies are
19 protected.

20 MS. COLEMAN: I'm sorry, ma'am. I
21 appreciate it. Please submit your comments.

22 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: As we go to number 67, I
3 just wanted to make sure that any of you who are
4 scheduled to speak, you know, in the upcoming
5 numbers, to please be near the mic so we can continue
6 to move expeditiously. Okay. Number 67. Is 67
7 here? 68? Thank you.

8 MS. GWYNN: Hello. My name is Jane Gwynn.
9 I'm a concerned citizen, and as you can see, I'm
10 expecting a baby any day now. So I would like us to
11 think about this as the next generation, think about
12 it in the long-term perspective, rather than just the
13 immediate gratification.

14 I understand that as our country is in a
15 recession, we are in deep need of jobs. But we need
16 safe jobs, in particular, that will not harm our
17 environment or the next generation. I think that we
18 need to think about this, particularly in its
19 environmental capacity.

20 First of all, a pipeline from Canada to
21 the Gulf Coast, it's naive to think that it would
22 never leak. In fact, of course, we have seen leaks

23

1 already from TransCanada pipelines, and such leaks
2 will cause environmental harm that has not adequately
3 been accounted for.

4 This particular kind of oil is very dirty.
5 It contains more toxic contaminants and heavy metals
6 and other forms of crude oil. We need to shift not
7 just away from foreign oil, but we need to shift away
8 from fossil fuels entirely and move our economy into
9 clean-burning fuels, so that not only does this
10 pipeline cross sensitive wetlands and aquifers that
11 would cause water pollution to those living in those
12 areas, that would have disastrous consequences, but
13 the refining process of this would cause air
14 pollution.

15 Also this form of oil is higher in carbon
16 content than ordinary crude oil, to the point that
17 climatologist James Hansen says that it would be game
18 over for the climate. So I believe that we need to
19 remove our dependence on fossil fuels, and that we
20 think about clean fuels, and that we not commit
21 ourselves to further dirtier and dirtier forms of
22 fossil fuels, that we move into the future. Thank

1 you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
4 comments.

5 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name,
6 ma'am. Spell your last name, please.

7 MS. GWYNN: G-W-Y-N-N.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

9 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Number 69, please.

11 MR. CLABBY: Hi everybody. My name is
12 Abraham Clabby. I'm a student at St. Edwards
13 University. I'm an Environmental Science and Policy
14 major, and I've --

15 MR. MAGGIO: Can you spell your name again
16 please?

17 MR. CLABBY: Oh, pardon me. Abraham
18 Clabby. That's C-L-A-B-B-Y. There's a reason every
19 environmentalist who has been to this podium today
20 has been trembling. You heard the shake in their
21 voice, because they know exactly what they're dealing
22 with.

23

1 The tar sands are coming from an area of
2 Canada the size of Florida. It's all forest right
3 now. It's huge, and the quality of oil in there is,
4 like the previous speakers have mentioned, full of
5 heavy metals, lead and mercury, which we know would
6 raise cancer rates. They're also full of volatile
7 organic chemicals which get in our air and our water,
8 and in the water of Canadians too.

9 It's not just an environmental problem.
10 It's a human problem. It's a gamble with our health
11 and our future, and it's going over an area of 1,700
12 miles. It crosses, and then for burying it, it goes
13 into the Ogallala aquifer, which provides one-fourth
14 of Americans with their drinking water.

15 Now how many people will be affected by a
16 spill? Is that oh, 75,000 Americans? No, it's more
17 than that. No, it's close to that. If it spilled
18 into their drinking water, that wouldn't be worth the
19 jobs, who are going to employ somewhere within the
20 vicinity of 100,000 people in the short term. It
21 gets down to -- I did the number on previous
22 speakers. They said it would make about 28,000 jobs

23

1 in the long term.

2 Now if this is a gamble between our jobs
3 and our health, which would you rather have? Would
4 you rather be unemployed or sick? If it leaks once,
5 it has devastating effects on the environment.
6 People have come out against it. James Hansen, as
7 you mentioned; the Dalai Lama from Tibet and the
8 Archbishop of South Africa, Desmond Tutu are talking
9 about it.

10 Why would they care if it were just an
11 issue of money and jobs? It's not about the money;
12 it's not about the jobs. It's about our future and
13 what it does to us. Then when it gets to the coast,
14 why are we shipping it to the coast if we're going to
15 give it to Americans?

16 Now this oil, this low quality oil which
17 is costly to produce, and which wouldn't be
18 profitable if it weren't for the government subsidies
19 that they're asking for. This is going to other
20 countries, and they're not giving it to us. We're
21 not getting energy independence. We're getting
22 money, and that money is going to the same oil

23

1 executives which have always owned our energy, who
2 are currently making half a trillion a year.

3 They're such a big part of our economy,
4 but they are employing so few people compared to
5 other sectors. So it's not worth it for most of
6 America. This gamble between our jobs and our
7 health, I'm not going to side with the money. I'm
8 going to side with me being alive 50 years from now.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
12 Thanks again. Number 70, please. Number 70?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Number 71?

15 MS. DUVALL: My name's Candace Duvall.
16 First, I want to thank you for this opportunity to --

17

18 MR. MAGGIO: What's your affiliation,
19 Candace?

20 MS. DUVALL: My affiliation is I'm a
21 steward of Mother Earth. Hey.

22 (Applause.)

23

1 MS. DUVALL: It's an honor to be able to
2 give testament to you today in front of my community,
3 my brothers and sisters, and most importantly, my
4 country. Now is the time to be accountable to one
5 another, to the land that provides us with our basic
6 needs like air that we breathe, the food that
7 nourishes us with the true energy necessary to live,
8 and the water that everything in existence depends
9 on.

10 Also, now is our time to be accountable to
11 our intentions and the truth, and what lays in our
12 heart. Now is our time to show our love for our
13 children, families, our country, you. Now is our
14 time to embrace a sustainable future and to be heroes
15 of generations to come. Now is our time to trust in
16 our truth to our existence.

17 My truth? I want cooler and cleaner air.
18 I want uncontaminated water to drink and to grow the
19 food I depend on for energy and good health. Today,
20 now I hold you, you and every one of you here today,
21 I hold President Obama accountable for how it plays
22 out. I hold you accountable for your intentions of
23

1 how you want to exist in this world today, as my
2 brother and my neighbor.

3 The question is, what will be -- what will
4 you be accountable for? A sustainable future or a
5 life surviving a toxic, contaminated environment. If
6 we were stripped of our clothing and shelter, what
7 would you depend on for survival, oil? Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
10 Number 72, please.

11 MR. FLIPPIN: Yes. My name is Ken
12 Flippin. I guess I'm associated with this
13 university, since I went to the LBJ School of Public
14 Affairs.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Could you spell
16 your last name please?

17 MR. FLIPPIN: F-L-I-P-P-I-N, and my
18 comment, I have been working with different
19 organizations to oppose the pipeline for some time,
20 and I think there's just a couple of points that
21 maybe have been made, but maybe should be made in a
22 couple of different ways, is that really, as the

23

1 State Department, deciding whether or not this is
2 something that is a permit we're going to give,
3 because it's better for the nation and it's going to
4 make an improvement, that it doesn't impede on our
5 security.

6 We already know the health and
7 environmental impacts and the dangers. Those have
8 been highlighted, and we have to balance those out
9 with the advantages that we're going to gain. But of
10 course, the other bigger question that I think
11 doesn't get answered is why do we have to build it
12 all the way down here? Why can't it be refined in
13 other parts of the country or in Canada itself?

14 A lot of it has to do with because they
15 want to come to refineries that are willing to refine
16 this oil, and of course, we know the quality, the air
17 quality is already problematic in those areas, and
18 it's already going to get worse. The economic
19 impacts of this are not going to be worth it, when we
20 look at what the State Department itself says that
21 we're looking at five to six thousand jobs that are
22 going to be created, 10 to 15 percent local jobs.

23

1 Even though that will be a temporary
2 boost, and that boost is something that we need, in
3 the larger impact of the environment, and also again,
4 the danger of this pipeline going past these
5 aquifers. Not only do we know that the previous
6 pipeline has in 14 months had 12 leaks, and we know
7 that it's had problems, but also we have to consider
8 that when you build such a big pipeline and you're
9 putting so much oil through it, that it's got to be
10 an obvious target for those that would want to harm
11 us.

12 The ability to attack that pipeline in the
13 middle of one of these aquifers, to destroy our
14 water, would be our water quality especially here in
15 Texas, where our aquifer for this past year, 40
16 percent of our water in the state comes from that.
17 So it could be an economic as well as an
18 environmentally devastating thing, to create a target
19 that again, for what purpose?

20 So that we can bring it all the way down
21 here for the majority of it? Not to solve our
22 domestic oil production problems, but to be exported
23

1 to other places. When you consider in balance all of
2 those things, I think considering the long term, it's
3 a pretty easy decision to say that the pipeline is
4 definitely not worth it. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
7 Number 73, please.

8 MR. WALEY: Howdy y'all. My name is Roy
9 Waley. I am the co-chair of the Conservation
10 Committee for the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra
11 Club. That's spelled W-A-L-E-Y, and I'm here today
12 to talk about what has been brought up, that this
13 pipeline will create jobs, and we want to acknowledge
14 that that is true.

15 It will create high-paying jobs. It will
16 create high-paying jobs for cardiologists. It will
17 create high-paying jobs for radiologists,
18 pulmonologists, lobbyists for sure, morticians.
19 We'll need more morticians, because this is going to
20 have a devastating effect on our environment and our
21 health.

22 So yes, it will create some jobs in those
23

1 fields. Let's see what the Department of State has
2 to say, however, when it does come to job creation,
3 that the building of the pipeline itself, let's see,
4 would employ, say in South Dakota here, 20 to 30
5 workers for 18 to 24 months. Now I know when you're
6 looking for a job, that's a pretty big deal. But
7 that is not long- term employment.

8 We do not want to risk our environment,
9 and we don't want to risk our energy future on
10 something from the past. We have to move forward to
11 the future. I'm going to tell you something
12 shocking. I'm going to die. I don't know when, but
13 I'm going to die before this really gets to be a big
14 problem.

15 So I'm not here today for myself. What I
16 find disturbing is to see the young people that I've
17 seen, saying we want to build this pipeline, because
18 I feel like they are so misinformed. I'm here today
19 for them. I'm here today for the people, the young
20 folks that are here today saying we want to move into
21 a clean energy future. We want to create clean
22 energy jobs.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. WALEY: We know that the model that
3 we're using right now does not work, and we want to
4 create a clean energy future with a new business
5 model, with a new energy model, so that we can keep
6 right on going into the future, for their children
7 and their children and their children. Thank you
8 very much for listening.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Number
11 74, please.

12 MR. JAMES: Roland James, R-O-L-A-N-D, J-
13 A-M-E-S, Seguin, Texas. I've worked most of my life
14 in the interconnection of the three E's: energy,
15 environment and the economy, including 14 years as a
16 policy advisor to an Arizona utility regulator.

17 Environment mostly now is a concern about
18 climate change, which is the issue that probably will
19 swamp everything else, because we are not addressing
20 it. President Obama, what good is the use of fossil
21 fuels like tar sands, if they increase catastrophic
22 global climate change? There is a Hopi legend that

23

1 says "Climate is like a dormant snake. If you poke
2 it with a stick, it will turn and bite you."

3 President Obama, you can poke at Governor
4 Perry for denying climate change that the state of
5 Texas is burning up, and on the precipice of
6 permanent hotter and drier climate. But if you
7 approve this pipeline, you are also essentially
8 denying climate change.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. JAMES: Dr. James Hansen, Director of
11 Goddard Space Studies at NASA has not only said,
12 "game over," if this pipeline is approved, but that
13 climate hell is virtually guaranteed. President
14 Obama, how can we expect South Americans not to cut
15 down and develop the Amazon forest for the lungs of
16 the earth, if we North Americans develop the tar
17 sands?

18 Let's talk about jobs with 21st century
19 thinking. Germany already has about 20 times the
20 renewable energy that we do, and one-half the per
21 capita carbon dioxide emissions than we do, with a
22 current unemployment rate much below ours, below

23

1 seven percent, with three times the percentage of its
2 workers in manufacturing, at very high wages.
3 They're unionized jobs, making high quality products
4 for the rest of the world. Let's follow the example
5 of Germany.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. JAMES: Climate change is already
8 affecting the Tropic of Chaos. Droughts used to come
9 every 10 to 15 years in East Africa, but now they
10 come every year. Now the drought and famine in East
11 Africa is expected to kill 750,000 Somalis. It's not
12 a problem of their making; it's a problem of our
13 making and our huge carbon dioxide emissions.

14 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Sir, I'm sorry to
15 say, you've run out of the time.

16 MR. JAMES: Thank you.

17 MS. COLEMAN: But please submit your
18 comments.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Now according to the
21 schedule for today, we are going to, we are supposed
22 to take a break at 3:30 and reconvene at 4:00. Since

23

1 this lady, young lady, has been standing by the mic
2 for a while, we'll take one more, number 75, and then
3 we will take a break for 30 minutes.

4 MS. GOODWIN: Thank you very much. My
5 name is Kathy Goodwin, K-A-T-H-Y, G-O-O-D-W-I-N. I'm
6 speaking today as a citizen who is a member and
7 supporter of more environmental groups than I could
8 name in three minutes.

9 I am deeply concerned that the short-term
10 decisions that we make today will have long-term
11 effects for the future of our nation and our planet.
12 Specifically, I am speaking about our need for clean
13 water. In a study conducted by Dr. John Stansbury, a
14 professor of Environmental and Water Resources
15 Engineering at the University of Nebraska.

16 Worse case scenarios for sand tar oil
17 spills from the Keystone XL project find that the
18 Keystone XL could spill as much as 7.9 million in
19 Nebraska Sand Hills above the Ogallala aquifer, and
20 more than 6.9 million gallons of raw tar sands crude
21 oil at the Yellowstone River crossing. We've already
22 seen 42,000 gallons of spilled conventional crude

23

1 contaminating 240 miles of the Yellowstone River, and
2 also recent contamination in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

3 It is clear to me that the Keystone XL
4 project poses serious risks to our water. There's
5 another concern about water. It takes three barrels
6 of water to extract each single barrel of tar sands
7 oil. At this rate, tar sands operations use roughly
8 400 million gallons of water a day. 90 percent of
9 this polluted water is dumped into large human-made
10 pools known as tailing ponds. These ponds are home
11 to toxic sludge full of harmful substances like
12 cyanide and ammonia, which have worked their way into
13 neighboring clean water supplies.

14 We cannot afford to use and pollute this
15 much water, which is a limited quantity on our
16 planet. We only have as much water as we had when
17 the planet began. Since the massive and extremely
18 harmful and wasteful British Petroleum oil spill in
19 the Gulf of Mexico, it is my belief that no large
20 corporation can be trusted to put public safety ahead
21 of profits and ahead of what is best for their
22 corporation.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. GOODWIN: No amounts of financial gain
3 to a corporation or to state or local governments in
4 the United States, or to temporary jobs for extremely
5 deserving Americans, is worth the risk of ruining any
6 of the water of an aquifer that provides drinking
7 water to millions of Americans every day, and to over
8 one-quarter of our agricultural water. That's the
9 Ogallala aquifer, and to the 1,904 waterways that
10 come in contact with the proposed pipeline.

11 I respectfully ask President Obama to deny
12 permission to build the Keystone project through the
13 land of the United States of America. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
16 comment. I just wanted to say that before we go on
17 the break and some of you will be leaving, that I
18 want to thank you most sincerely for your comments
19 and your thoughtfulness, and for being so fair and
20 listening to each other, even though your opinions
21 differ. This is a wonderful example of democracy in
22 action. Thank you very much.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 (Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m., a recess was
3 taken.)

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1 E V E N I N G S E S S I O N

2 4:00 p.m.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Good afternoon, and welcome
4 back to our public comment meeting. There's a lot of
5 people signed up, and we want to get through as many
6 as possible. Thanks again for keeping to, you know,
7 keeping respectful of the other speakers. The faster
8 they can make their comments and then sit down
9 without, you know, other comments, that really helps
10 us.

11 Second, thirdly, we've been asked to make
12 sure that when a person's at the mic, if you could
13 please be quiet, particularly in the vicinity of the
14 mic, so that people can really concentrate on those
15 three minutes that they have. If you want to walk to
16 the back of the hall, it would be helpful if you took
17 the other aisle than the one that the person is at
18 the mic, because they're trying to look at us and
19 make their three minutes, and it's a little
20 distracting.

21 That's, I think, the main points we wanted
22 to make, and we look forward to your further input

23

1 during the next part of the program. Okay. We are
2 up and running? Good. So I think we ended with 75.
3 Is number 76 here, and maybe 77 or 78 could come
4 forward. Thank you.

5 MS. TREVINO: Hi.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Hi.

7 MS. TREVINO: My name is Jackelin Trevino.
8 My first name is spelled J-A-C-K-E-L-I-N, last name
9 T-R-E-V-I-N-O.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

11 MS. TREVINO: I am strongly opposed to the
12 Keystone XL Pipeline project. Something that has
13 come up as I've listened here and Port Arthur to the
14 comments of others, has been this idea of the
15 American dream. My father has worked hard every day
16 of his life to lay a strong foundation for his family
17 and for me, and due to his diligence and his hard
18 work, I've been able to attend college, and I make
19 good grades and I always go to class.

20 Every dollar that we spend furthering
21 infrastructure that is built upon the foundation of
22 dirty fuels is a dollar that is spent putting my

23

1 future in jeopardy and the future of my unborn
2 children in jeopardy. This pipeline might be safe.
3 It could be the safest that has ever been built.

4 But we cannot look towards the future if
5 our head is looking back at the past. We need to
6 move forward as a strong, united nation to a better,
7 cleaner, stronger energy economy. I understand that
8 we need jobs right now, and while this pipeline may
9 provide a few jobs right now, as people before me
10 have so eloquently expressed, the numbers that have
11 been told to everyone may or may not be true. There
12 are so many unknowns around this project. I don't
13 feel like the future is worth placing faith in these
14 unknown variables.

15 For example, tar sands as a fuel. We do
16 not know what this fuel does to pipelines. There has
17 never been a comprehensive study done. The Pipeline
18 and Hazardous Material Safety Administration will be
19 the first people to tell you that they do not know,
20 and this pipeline is being based on good faith, that
21 this oil is just like every other source of oil, but
22 we don't know that for a fact.

23

1 I do know that our climate is in peril,
2 and I do know that water is becoming more and more
3 rare in the state of Texas. My aunt and my uncle
4 live in East Texas, and they have seen their water
5 bill go up over \$200 a month in the last year,
6 because of the severe drought conditions in Texas.

7 They are very fortunate people. They
8 worked hard, they saved. They can afford that
9 increase in price for water. People that live in the
10 community where I grew up in the Rio Grande Valley,
11 that have some of the five poorest counties in the
12 country, cannot afford that type of increase in
13 water. I do not feel that we should be putting our
14 water resources at a state at risk.

15 I also would like to mention to everyone
16 that supports the pipeline, that I completely
17 understand why you support it, and I admire that
18 you're here today using your voice and sending your
19 message to everyone that's in the room.

20 But everyone that is here opposed to the
21 pipeline is opposed to it for very big reasons. It's
22 not just this project. It's not just this pipeline,
23

1 and we will continue to use our voice in opposition
2 to any project that will put our future in jeopardy.
3 Thank you very much for the time.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
6 comments. Number 76, please. I'm sorry, 77.

7 MR. MALONEY: My name is Trevor Maloney,
8 M-A-L-O-N-E-Y, and I am with Deep Green Resistance,
9 also known as DGR. My message is for everyone here,
10 not just the State Department. I implore the
11 Department of State to stop the Keystone XL.
12 Exploiting the tar sands would further the global
13 climate disaster.

14 If you refuse to protect our home, then
15 it's time for the people to start fighting back
16 effectively. Tim DeChristopher is a climate activist
17 currently in prison on a two-year sentence for a
18 successful act of civil disobedience. Tim has said
19 "I think the consequence of not fighting back is far
20 scarier than the consequence of going to prison for a
21 few years."

22 The consequence of not fighting back is

23

1 business as usual, the continued destruction of our
2 home. We are running out of time. Meanwhile,
3 TransCanada gets rich, while others work multiple
4 jobs just to get by. The poor are poorer not for
5 lack of jobs, but because the rich and powerful are
6 stealing from the poor.

7 DGR is a new, radical environmental
8 movement with a plan of action for anyone determined
9 to fight for the planet and win. Our strategy
10 involves two separate parts of the movement, an above
11 ground and an underground.

12 We are the above ground, and therefore our
13 day-to-day work is strictly limited to non-violence.
14 We're helping to build a strong, effective, above-
15 ground movement using non-violent civil disobedience,
16 like Tim, to stop the destruction of the planet, and
17 we are promoting the necessity of a militant
18 underground.

19 Throughout history, many resistance
20 movements have included an underground that does
21 actions against infrastructure, because it is
22 effective. We need to be effective. So for those

23

1 here today who are able and willing, this part of our
2 message is for you. We need to stop industrial
3 civilization. This will require an underground
4 organization that can engage in decisive attacks on a
5 continental scale.

6 There are manuals written by your tax
7 dollars that can tell you how to do this. For those
8 here today who prefer to be in an above-ground
9 movement and use non-violence, as we do, our message,
10 like Tim's, is that our non-violent movements will
11 have to do much more in order to be successful.

12 We can only succeed in our above-ground
13 work if there are massive waves of non-violent civil
14 disobedience and sustained campaigns at key nodes of
15 industry. We are currently building a coalition of
16 individuals and organization to make this happen and
17 stop the Keystone XL.

18 This means we do a campaign and we don't
19 go home until it's done. This means sacrifice,
20 clogging the jails possibly for months. We also need
21 a wide base of people willing to support those who
22 put their bodies between industry and the planet.

23

1 TransCanada and others who profit from the
2 destruction of our lives and the planet are
3 relentless and 100 percent committed. We must be as
4 relentless and committed in our strategy, bravery and
5 sacrifice.

6 Approve the Keystone XL if you must, but
7 my friends and I will not let it be built. To find
8 out more, or if your organization is interested in
9 joining the coalition, please speak with them and
10 visit our website and join the resistance. Thank
11 you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Number 78, please.

14 MS. ALMANZA: Is it on? Good evening. My
15 name is Susana Almanza, S-U-S-A-N-A, last name is A-
16 L-M-A-N-Z-A, and I'm the Director of PODEHR, People
17 Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources, and
18 we're also a member of the Indigenous Environmental
19 Network.

20 It's my place and honor as a woman to
21 stand with Mother Earth against corporate male
22 dominated greed. The Keystone XL pipeline is planned

23

1 for the heartland of America and Indian country,
2 including the massive Ogallala aquifer. The dirty
3 tar sands mining operations are already destroying
4 the homelands of First Nations people in Alberta.

5 President Obama must take a stand with the
6 people and Mother Earth. He must vote to deny the
7 Keystone XL permit. Just a few years ago, people in
8 Canada, United States and Europe heard little to
9 nothing about the Canadian tar sands. The everything
10 is fine myth, as propagated by the Canadian and
11 Alberta governments, has been shattered.

12 Today, the tar sands have become a topic
13 of national and international discussion, as stories
14 of cancer epidemics in the community of Fort
15 Chipewyan, massive wildlife losses related to toxic
16 contamination, environmental degradation and
17 increased vocal resistance from impacted communities.

18
19 Extracting oil is carbon intensive and
20 water-intensive. The oil, which exists in the form
21 of bitumen, is mixed with clay, water and sand, must
22 be extracted from the ground with hot water, and

23

1 upgraded by using a high energy process. To make a
2 single barrel of oil requires two tons of tar sands
3 and three barrels of water.

4 The tar sands have been blamed for
5 despoiling fish, fresh water sources, cutting vast
6 tracts of boreal forests, poisoning wildlife and
7 spreading cancer in indigenous communities. The
8 Keystone XL will further tie the U.S. to the oil
9 sands, and energy-intensive extraction process that
10 produces significantly more greenhouse gases than
11 traditional oil wells.

12 At a time when the country should be
13 cutting fossil fuel use, the pipeline would put
14 surrounding areas and underground aquifers at risk of
15 an oil spill. We call upon President Barack Obama
16 not to issue a permit for the construction of
17 Keystone XL's controversial 1,700 mile oil pipeline
18 from Canada to the Gulf Coast of Texas, in peace with
19 humanity and Mother Earth. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
22 Number 79, please.

23

1 MR. LINGENFELDER: Good afternoon. My
2 name is John Lingenfelder, and that is spelled L-I-N-
3 G-E-N-F-E-L-D-E-R, and I'm the Democratic candidate
4 or was the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress,
5 Texas 3rd Congressional District, and will be doing
6 that again.

7 I wanted to preface, though, my remarks by
8 saying that there are in existence refineries in the
9 Midwest, in Illinois specifically, that do process
10 tar sands crude oil. I'm going to read into remarks
11 by Senator Ron Widen, to make sure they do get into
12 the part of the State Department's statement.

13 In an effort to protect U.S. consumers
14 from Canadian oil companies that use potentially
15 anti-competitive practices to drive up prices for tar
16 sand oil at Midwest refineries, the Senator has
17 called for an FTC investigation into whether seven
18 Canadian oil companies illegally colluded to control
19 the price of oil to U.S. refineries that contribute
20 to the nation's supply of gasoline and diesel oil.

21 While the full nature of the arrangement
22 agreed upon by the Canadian shippers is unclear,

23

1 there is a clear indication that there is a
2 coordinated strategy among Canadian suppliers to gain
3 higher prices. According to TransCanada, the
4 proposed Keystone XL pipeline can be used by Canadian
5 oil shippers to add \$4 billion to U.S. oil fuel
6 costs.

7 According to the oil companies before the
8 Canadian National Energy Board, they wish to avoid
9 Midwest refineries, and are willing to incur higher
10 pipeline tariff costs, and that this actually will
11 have the effect of manipulating supply levels,
12 allowing prices of oil refined in the Midwest to
13 rise.

14 The strategy apparently relates to an
15 attempt to reverse the recent relative lowering of
16 prices that has occurred in Midwestern refineries.
17 The reasons for the price decrease in the Midwest are
18 complex, but they can be reversed by the Canadian
19 shippers agreeing to bypass Midwest refineries, and
20 send their crude to Gulf Coast refineries.

21 Construction of this pipeline would open
22 up the Gulf Coast to the tar sands crude. This would

1 reduce total oil flows to the Midwest, in turn
2 reducing the current crude supply and causing prices
3 to rise in the Midwest. Midwestern refineries would
4 pass this rise in price onto consumers. The Canadian
5 oil shippers appear to cooperate, to use the new
6 pipeline capacity to expand tar sands operations in
7 Canada, and then transfer some of the flows to the
8 Gulf Coast, resulting in higher per barrel cost in
9 the Midwest on all crude oil pipelines.

10 This increase could be \$3 a barrel
11 overall, and over \$6 per barrel sold in Midwest
12 markets. It would have the effect of increasing the
13 revenue for the Canadian crude industry by two to
14 four billion dollars a year. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
17 comments. Number 80, please. Number 80.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Number 81.

20 MS. BARRETTO: Hello. My name is Shantel
21 Barretto. That's B-A-R-R-E-T-T-O. I'm a Climatology
22 major here at UT and an intern at the Sierra Club.

23

1 I'm sure that everyone here is well aware of what
2 this pipeline is, and of the impacts it will have on
3 all of us. So I ask you, being informed,
4 conscientious, educated citizens, why are we even
5 considering the expansion of the horrific tar sands
6 industry, that would decimate undoubtedly both the
7 Canadian and U.S. environment?

8 I understand that job creation has been an
9 issue that has been consistently brought up during
10 this forum. However, are we really going to support
11 an industry that's so short-lived and unsustainable,
12 and that we know will be catastrophic for not only
13 our livelihoods, but those of future generations?

14 It's evident that the right thing to do is
15 seldom the easy thing to do. So let's say no to this
16 endeavor, that does nothing but bear testament to the
17 greed of our culture, and which provides instant
18 gratification over long-term solutions, such as green
19 energy, which is irrefutably the answer to our
20 economic and environmental problems, and is the way
21 of the future.

22 On a more personal note, my family has
23

1 moved around a lot, and my parents and younger sister
2 currently live in Houston, where we've been for the
3 past two years. Having lived in seven different
4 countries, it's my pleasure to say that the U.S. has
5 been quite possibly the most sophisticated,
6 innovative and just greatest one I've been in.

7 However, my asthmatic sister now lives in
8 a city that's going to bear the brunt of much of the
9 air pollution from the refining of the products of
10 this pipeline. The fact that so many people here
11 support an endeavor that will shorten and worsen the
12 quality of my baby sister's life, and all of our
13 lives in fact, is quickly changing my opinion of this
14 nation.

15 So everyone, let's keep America amazing.
16 Say no to the Keystone pipeline.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
19 Number 82, please. Number 82. If you wouldn't mind,
20 please come down towards the mics if your number is
21 close by. Thank you.

22 MS. BEVING: Good afternoon. My name is

23

1 Rita Beving. That's spelled B as in Boy, E as in
2 Edward, V as in Victor, I-N-G, and I live in Dallas,
3 Texas. I want to say today that I'm very proud to be
4 affiliated with the first 391 Commission formed
5 against TransCanada, the East Texas Regional Planning
6 Commission, represented by Uris Robertson represents
7 two municipalities willing to stand up against this
8 pipeline.

9 Today, they ask that this permit be
10 denied, and this is why. One of the main reasons is
11 the fact that water has been marginalized by terms of
12 art in this water plan. I've worked on water more
13 than 11 years. I've looked at the pathetic 40 page
14 Water Resource section. By definition, the way this
15 water resource section was done, was designed to
16 marginalize water.

17 All but one state out of six, the common
18 comment on aquifers is there is no sole source
19 aquifer in anywhere but part of Oklahoma, while the
20 East Texas Carrizo-Wilcox provides water for 60
21 counties and 12 million people. I'm sure they would
22 consider that a major aquifer. The Ogallala in

1 Nebraska is mentioned, but frankly, no real
2 discussion on impacts as far as that aquifer.

3 The Yellowstone River, which is a precious
4 American icon of a river, is crossed by this
5 pipeline, and yet it is also marginalized by the
6 legalese within this study. For instance, water
7 sources that are only ten miles away are considered
8 in this plan. Water wells, both municipal and
9 private, are only considered one mile away in this
10 plan, yet water is so precious. So this plan needs
11 to be reviewed for that.

12 Next, the other reason these communities
13 formed this 391 is the right to know. You have a
14 distribution list in the back of this plan. The
15 Mayors of Reckline and Gallatin never received
16 anything, even though you have them listed, and you
17 have the wrong names listed. The Cherokee County
18 Commissioners are wrong in this document, and I
19 question how many others are also wrong.

20 The libraries you listed don't have all
21 these documents that you say you've given them, i.e.,
22 Jacksonville and Austin. And last of all, I'm sure
23

1 my 391 Commission that I work with is going to be
2 very disturbed when they hear that Cardno Entrix, who
3 consults for TransCanada, and who consulted in BP's
4 Deepwater Horizon environmental study, is conducting
5 this hearing with the State Department today.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. BEVING: Thank you, and there needs to
8 be a review of how this is done. It's a conflict of
9 interest. Thank you.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Excuse me.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: Number 83, please.

13 MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Ian Davis. That's I-A-N, D-A-V-I-S, and I live here
15 in Austin, and I'm a fifth generation Texan, and I
16 want to say thank you for having us today, and we've
17 been talking today a lot about the threats to our
18 land, our air and our water here in Texas, and these
19 are very real threats, and this concerns me.

20 But I want to talk a little bit about the
21 future and some positive ways we can move forward.

22 So I just recently became a parent. This is a

23

1 picture of my seven month old. His name is Reed, and
2 he's a sixth generation Texan, and I really want to
3 raise my family here in Texas, and I want him to have
4 the opportunity to have a healthy environment.

5 So when we're thinking about this
6 discussion, it's sometimes framed as an environment
7 versus jobs issue. I'd like to think about it a
8 little bit differently. I see it as more of a short-
9 term versus long term discussion. So if we, over the
10 long term, make a bold, concerted push to join the
11 clean energy economy, we can actually create more
12 jobs and clean energy than we can in dirty energy.

13 I just want to cite a study from the
14 University of Massachusetts. I'll just read it
15 verbatim. "As the nation continues to debate its
16 energy future, a new report released shows that the
17 U.S. can generate two million jobs by investing in a
18 rapid green economic recovery program, which will
19 strengthen the economy, increase energy independence
20 and fight global warming.

21 "Specifically, investing in clean energy
22 can create nearly four times more total jobs than

1 spending the same amount of money within the oil
2 industry." So I would just suggest that not only can
3 we create more jobs for the folks in this room, but
4 if we invest in clean energy, we can also create more
5 jobs for Reed and his generation. So I would just
6 ask you to consider that. Thank you for your time.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
9 comments. Number 84, please.

10 MR. GRIGGS: Good afternoon. My name is
11 David Griggs, spelled G-R-I-G-G-S. I live and work
12 professionally as an attorney and as an adjunct
13 professor of Government at Brookhaven College in
14 Dallas. I'm also an active member and volunteer
15 leader in the Sierra Club in Texas, and it's in that
16 capacity that I rise to share my comments today in
17 opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline.

18 I guess that makes me, in the words of a
19 previous speaker, "a basket-weaving, tree-hugging
20 extremist." I tried to dress the part, but I didn't
21 come for the free lunch. I'm here because I care
22 about this issue. As you know, Texas is going to be

23

1 the home, if this goes through, of the longest span
2 of the Keystone project, and therefore, we're at the
3 greatest risk.

4 Many Texans are deeply concerned about the
5 environmental and safety issues surrounding the
6 pipeline. Much has been said and will be said about
7 the environmental dangers and safety concerns of this
8 project. However, I just want to review and
9 highlight some important points.

10 First, the track record. It's not good.
11 Despite assurances that state-of-the-art technology
12 and design features were used in Keystone's first
13 pipeline, and a prediction that there would be no
14 more than one spill in seven years, we've already
15 seen 15 leaks in the first year of operation alone.

16 Second, the product to be carried. It's
17 dirty, very dirty, highly acidic, corrosive crude oil
18 flushed with toxic heavy metals like arsenic and lead
19 and other harmful substances which, when released
20 into the rural countryside during these inevitable
21 spills, will endanger the health of citizens and the
22 economic well-being of the communities.

23

1 Third, risk to the air we breathe. In
2 July 2010, the Enbridge pipeline spill contaminated
3 more than 35 miles of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan
4 with tar sands crude. Three days after the spill was
5 reported, health officials recommended that people
6 evacuate 61 homes, because the air samples showed
7 that there were dangerous levels of benzene.

8 Finally fourth, the danger to the water
9 supply. It's major. There has been testimony today
10 that this pipeline will cover or go across some 70
11 rivers and two major aquifers, including the largest
12 one in the country. In Texas, our very own Carrizo-
13 Wilcox aquifer, which provides water to 60 counties
14 and 12 million people, could be put at risk for
15 possible contamination.

16 So in conclusion, I just ask this
17 question. Is this push for jobs worth the potential
18 safety and economic risk to our citizens? All
19 decision-makers should hold that foremost in their
20 minds, as they consider the body of evidence. So I
21 ask the Secretary of State and the President to deny
22 this permit. Thank you for your time.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your opinions.
3 Number 85, please.

4 MS. BUSH: My name is Helen Bush, capitol
5 H-E-L-E-N, B-U-S-H. I'm here as a concerned citizen
6 and a member of the Dallas Sierra Club. I'm biased.
7 I'll tell you that I am asking the State Department
8 to deny the Presidential permit to TransCanada.

9 I'm always biased in favor of the
10 environment, which if you study, we're already living
11 with a lot of assault on the environment, and the
12 Keystone XL pipeline is just over the top. It's
13 beyond the limits.

14 But TransCanada Company wants Texans to
15 trade drinking water safety for the empty promise of
16 jobs. Some of those jobs are temporary, and also as
17 the criticism of the pipeline has risen, so has the
18 number of jobs that they estimate can be made.
19 Environmentalists are riled about the Keystone XL
20 pipeline, because it is not oil like all those
21 500,000 miles of pipeline that have been there for
22 50-60 years.

23

1 It is a different product. The tar sands
2 is a product that has a different description than
3 the petroleum oil that we think of. This is the
4 description. It is a bitumen crude that looks like
5 asphalt, that is mined up there in Alberta. It's to
6 be transported through the XL pipeline, and it has to
7 be liquefied with natural gas and heavy metals and
8 water. It has to be heated and pressurized to get it
9 through the pipeline, all the way to Port Arthur. It
10 is very acidic and it's corrosive. The tar sands
11 pipeline spills have already occurred in the
12 Kalamazoo River.

13 This product does not float like we know
14 about oil floating on the ocean, and can be cleaned
15 up. It sinks. That's why they're so concerned about
16 the aquifers. The chemicals in it, the product, the
17 pollution sinks down, so you can't get to it to clean
18 it up. And also, it's not monitored closely enough,
19 according to descriptions, to arrest a spill in that
20 pipeline.

21 I'd also like to add that the Canadians
22 could have made the pipeline to the Pacific, and the
23

1 Canadians put down that pipeline with protests, and
2 they were protesting on Monday at their Congress, to
3 stop the Alberta process.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. BUSH: So it is a very great danger to
6 all water, because it will sink below the level of
7 the surface of the water and you can't get to it.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, ma'am. I
9 appreciate your views. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: 86, please.

12 MR. PICK: My name is Donald Pick. I'm
13 the business agent for Teamsters Local 657 out of
14 Santa Fe and Texas.

15 COURT REPORTER: You said Pick?

16 MR. PICK: Pick, P-I-C-K. There's nothing
17 new about U.S. pipelines, except that more than a
18 dozen interstate pipelines were built in the past
19 five years without serious incident. Work has been
20 completed on the Millennium project, the Talisman and
21 the Chesapeake in the east, while the Marcellus Shale
22 project is still underway.

23

1 In the central region, work is being done
2 on the Keystone, Alberta Clipper, Southern Lights and
3 the Rocky Mountain Express, Illinois, Ohio,
4 Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas and Indiana. In the
5 south, the Tiger pipeline crosses the states of
6 Texas, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida. In the west,
7 the Ruby project is being worked on through Oregon,
8 Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

9 These pipeline projects have brought
10 economic boom during the worst economy in recent
11 history. Keystone XL is expected to create over
12 13,000 union jobs, which will put money into local
13 communities. Pipeline workers will pump money into
14 local grocery stores, restaurants, convenience
15 stores, campgrounds, motels and hotels. Pipeline
16 companies use a tremendous amount of supplies, much
17 of which are procured locally including fuel,
18 concrete, gravel and waste removal.

19 Pipeline projects help out on state and
20 local budgets, by throwing off considerable tax
21 revenue. The Keystone XL project expects to provide
22 more than \$5.2 billion in tax revenue to the states
23

1 along the Keystone corridor.

2 Expenditures paid to the local vendors in
3 North Dakota and Montana for the Bison project from
4 January 1st, 2010, to April 25th, 2011, were over
5 \$11.3 million. In North Dakota, there was 99 local
6 vendors used and in Montana, 96 local vendors used.
7 There were approximately 1,050 workers on this 210
8 mile project.

9 This project is in our national interest,
10 as well as our local interest. It will improve
11 America's security by providing a stable energy
12 supply with a friendly, reliable neighbor, Canada.
13 We understand many environmental groups are opposed
14 to the Keystone XL pipeline and respect their
15 position and the issues they raise.

16 We work with many of these groups to find
17 common ground, and create sustainable good-paying
18 jobs. But on this issue, we have to respectfully
19 disagree. This project will create jobs for
20 unemployed Americans and we believe there is a way
21 for the project to proceed, and it will be
22 constructed using industry best standards, and will

23

1 meet or exceed all existing pipeline regulator
2 standards. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
5 comments. Number 87, please.

6 MR. NAZOR: Yes. My name is Craig Nazor,
7 C-R-A-I-G, N-A-Z-O-R, and I am a member of the Austin
8 Sierra Club and I'm on the Conservation Committee. I
9 grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in the state of
10 Ohio.

11 There used to be lots of industrial jobs
12 in my hometown of Ashtabula. As a child, I watched
13 Lake Erie become an open sewer. All waste, human and
14 industrial, was simply dumped straight into the lake.

15 I used to love to go fishing. I'd watch
16 the wild sun settle into the ever-changing waves of
17 the lake, in a procession of amazing color. Then I
18 would proudly come home, bringing with me a string of
19 dioxin-laced fish for dinner. Both my mother and
20 father were diagnosed with colon cancer. I watched
21 my father, at the age of 51, suffer through a slow
22 and agonizing death of that disease.

23

1 I realized that someone who worked in
2 Ashtabula had the job of turning the valve that
3 released that dioxin into the lake. I didn't stay in
4 Ashtabula. Now most of the industry is gone. There
5 are few jobs. The lake has never really been cleaned
6 up. One of the largest fresh water fisheries in the
7 water is now gone. Throngs of tourists, who used to
8 support towns filled with lakeside summer cottages,
9 are all gone.

10 Now I live in Austin, a town that until
11 recently seemed to be able to manage its relatively
12 clean environment. But with increasing scientific
13 certainty of anthropogenic global warming, after the
14 hottest summer ever measured in North America, and
15 the continuation of the most severe one-year drought
16 on record, after one of the most destructive fires in
17 Texas history just 25 miles down the road, I'm
18 beginning to wonder.

19 A week ago, I received the news that a
20 young college-aged woman from my neighborhood is
21 suffering with a malignant brain tumor. I teach
22 college. I've known hundreds of young people. This
23

1 is the first student I have ever known with a brain
2 tumor. She was born and raised in the Beaumont area.
3 Would one of these jobs that I keep hearing about, be
4 a job like the job that released the toxins in the
5 environment, that killed my father, and the new
6 toxins that now threaten the life of this young
7 woman? Such a job is not a good job.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. NAZOR: Tar sands bitumen is one of
10 the most toxic oils on the planet. Mining it
11 destroys thousands of square miles of carbon-
12 absorbing forests, and pollutes billions of gallons
13 of water. This pipeline has the potential to create
14 extremely damaging oil spills.

15 Refining this oil will release still more
16 toxins into an already heavily-polluted area of
17 Texas, and because it's dirty and tar sands oil
18 releases up to eight times the carbon dioxide of
19 regular oil, the planet will continue to warm past
20 human tolerance.

21 For the State Department to claim that the
22 Keystone XL pipeline will not seriously damage the

23

1 environment is ridiculous. If President Obama does
2 not honor his campaign promises --

3 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, we've reached the end
4 of your time.

5 MR. NAZOR: You know where that's going.
6 Thanks. Tell Hillary.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Yes, thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Number 88, please. Why
10 don't we wait until the gentleman passes by.

11 MS. ROOKE: I'm Molly Rooke, M-O-L-L-Y, R-
12 O-O-K-E. I ask you to deny or at least delay and
13 further study TransCanada's application for its
14 Keystone XL pipeline, because it has yet to prove it
15 is competent to operate a pipeline effectively. One
16 only needs to look at what happened in North Dakota
17 in this past May, just a few months ago.

18 Furthermore, a report by a North Dakota
19 state agency proves that even officials cannot
20 pinpoint what it will take to transport bitumen crude
21 safely. So the National Pipeline and Hazardous
22 Materials Safety Administration also needs to review

23

1 and reassess the transport of bitumen crude.

2 The findings of a formal investigation by
3 a North Dakota Public Service Commission, of the
4 21,000 gallon Keystone I leak, provides evidence that
5 safety regulations for conventional pipelines are
6 inadequate for high pressure raw tar sands pipelines.
7 The North Dakota report found that the pipeline
8 failure was not due to any material or manufacturing
9 deficiency, and that the chemical compositions,
10 mechanical properties and microstructure met minimal
11 design requirements for conventional pipelines.

12 The operative word here is "conventional,"
13 and that's the problem. Bitumen crude is not your
14 conventional crude. It's mixed with natural gas and
15 heavy metals. It's corrosive and highly acidic. The
16 North Dakota agency report went on to state that the
17 work required to prevent similar failures included
18 using stronger, thicker materials and installing
19 engineered pipe supports.

20 In other words, conventional pipeline
21 standards aren't good enough for this pipeline.
22 TransCanada has now had at least 12 spills to date,

23

1 and has used this embarrassment as a great
2 opportunity to show how well their leak detection
3 systems work. While it's true that Keystone
4 operators have had a lot of experience dealing with
5 spills over the last year, there are some
6 discrepancies in the company's account of its leak
7 detection record.

8 After Keystone's 21,000 gallon spill in
9 North Dakota, TransCanada claimed that the pipeline
10 was shut down nine minutes after the leak occurred.
11 However, the PSC investigation revealed that the leak
12 occurred at 3:51 a.m., and the pipeline was not shut
13 down until 4:35 a.m., which makes for a pipeline
14 shutdown time of 44 minutes, and that was with the
15 help of a third party.

16 As the investigation notes, the Keystone
17 operators were still validating the leak detection
18 data when a local landowner called to report that a
19 spill was visible above the tree line. At an Energy
20 and Commerce Committee hearing on pipeline safety on
21 June 16th, 2011, Cynthia Quarterman, the
22 administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
23

1 Safety Administration said --

2 MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, I'm so sorry, but
3 we're out of time.

4 MS. ROOKE: All right. Well, I just want
5 to say based on what we know, it's not in the
6 national interest to approve the Keystone XL
7 pipeline. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
10 89, please.

11 MS. VAN PRAAG: My name is Jane Van Praag,
12 and I live on a farm in central Texas in the
13 Blackland Prairie.

14 COURT REPORTER: What was your last name,
15 ma'am?

16 MS. VAN PRAAG: My last name is spelled
17 capitol V as in Victor, A-N as in Nancy, capitol P as
18 in Paul, R-A, another A and G as in George. Thank
19 you. I have great sympathy with the people who want,
20 are eager, willing to work, needing jobs.

21 I am part of a group that feeds the local
22 hungry in my area. It started out two years ago,

23

1 mostly elderly people whose Social Security was not
2 lasting through the month, and we learned that they
3 were going hungry.

4 Now we've grown to 120 families, and about
5 half of them it's because of losing jobs. I do
6 understand how our economy is in hard times. I lived
7 during the drought years of the 50's, and that was my
8 time growing up on this family farm. It was -- we
9 had to haul water, very, very precious.

10 It hurts me today to see a faucet running
11 for more than just a moment. Now we are back in a
12 drought that they are saying seems to be worse than
13 that of the 1950's. Water is very precious to us.
14 We depend upon well water. In this drought, we lost
15 our crop this year. I do understand hard times. I
16 understand the value of money.

17 Now this is a cutout of a scrap piece of
18 paper, approximately the size of a dollar bill. You
19 could write on it \$1, you could write \$10,000 or a
20 million or whatever. I invite you, as you're doing a
21 rating, before you make your decision, to quietly put
22 this in an empty tumbler, a glass tumbler. Instead

23

1 of water, try to drink this. It won't work. There's
2 a little bit of water in this. There's a little bit
3 of water in everything.

4 But it is just penny -- what is that word?
5 Penny-wise and pound foolish to take risk with water,
6 which all human and other living beings require.
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
10 Number 90, please.

11 MR. STOUT: My name is Bill Stout, S-T-O-
12 U-T. I'm with the Travis County Green Party and
13 Green Party of Texas. Part of my statement is
14 actually from an op-ed that Robert Redford wrote, and
15 was published in the Houston Chronicle.

16 "At a time when we need to be reducing
17 greenhouse gases, the fact is that producing oil from
18 tar sands generates 17 percent more of carbon and
19 other greenhouse gas emissions that are warming our
20 planet, than conventional oil in this country."

21 "It's 19 percent dirtier than Middle East
22 sour, 13 percent dirtier than New Mexican heavy, and

23

1 16 percent dirtier than Venezuelan crudes." That's
2 from the U.S. State Department's conclusions in its
3 final environmental impact statement on the proposed
4 Keystone XL pipeline.

5 Pipeline safety. At a June 16th hearing
6 of the Energy and Power Subcommittee of the House
7 Energy and Commerce Committee, Carl Wymer, Executive
8 Director of the Pipeline Safety Trust, a non-profit
9 dedicated to making fuels transportation as safe as
10 possible, was asked whether U.S. pipeline safeguards
11 are adequate for the proposed pipeline, and the large
12 volumes of tar sands crude diluted bitumen the
13 pipeline would carry.

14 "There are some questions about the
15 corrosivity and the abrasiveness and the pressure and
16 temperature that need to be answered," Wymer said.
17 "We don't know the answers to those questions. We
18 would prefer to wait until those questions are
19 answered before that pipeline moves forward."

20 At the same hearing, the administrator of
21 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
22 Administration, which regulates U.S. pipelines, was

23

1 asked whether our present set of integrity
2 requirements, the guidelines for building,
3 maintaining and operating safe pipelines, was
4 adequate for dealing with tar sands crude.

5 Her reply: "The requirements were not
6 designed for tar sands crude." In other words, the
7 nation's highest government safety official, and one
8 of our most respected private pipeline safety experts
9 both agreed. Tar sands crude poses troubling
10 challenges to pipeline safety that we as a nation
11 have yet to address.

12 To move forward would be rolling the dice.
13 It's not a question of if but when. The proposed
14 pipeline cuts across the Ogallala aquifer. What
15 would a pipeline accident mean?

16 It could spill as much as 7.9 million
17 gallons of toxic crude oil into the aquifer,
18 contaminating up to 4.9 billion gallons of water in a
19 plume 15 miles long, according to a report released
20 this summer by University of Nebraska professor and
21 environmental engineer John Stansbury.

22 It is not in the public and national
23

1 interest to create -- or it is actually in the public
2 and national interest to create jobs and long-term
3 economic and energy sustainability. Let's build the
4 next generation of energy efficient cars, homes and
5 workplaces. Let's develop wind, solar and cleaner,
6 safer more sustainable sources of power and fuel.

7 In this state, many of the state parks and
8 their buildings were built by the Civilian
9 Conservation Corps.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, I'm sorry. You can see
11 that you have run out of time.

12 MR. STOUT: Yes, thank you.

13 MS. COLEMAN: If you could submit that to
14 the desk, and it will be put into the record of our
15 discussion today.

16 MR. STOUT: We need to end the endless
17 wars.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Number 91, please.

21 MR. MENDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Ben Mendez, B-E-N, M-E-N-D-E-Z, and I represent the

23

1 Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of
2 Commerce. We represent the 450,000 Hispanic business
3 owners here in Texas. Can't we just get along? I
4 mean really. I mean I wish I saw this much activity
5 during election time, and it's good to see both sides
6 come together and argue their point of view.

7 But I would say that any of you that have
8 gone to a veterans hospital and talked to those
9 veterans, they will tell you that we need to get our
10 oil from our backyard, from Canada. We cannot rely
11 on the Middle East. We need to find other sources of
12 oil.

13 I'm here to talk about three issues:
14 benefits to the Texas economy, benefits to the U.S.
15 economy, and facts about the Keystone pipeline. A
16 direct capital investment of roughly \$1.6 billion in
17 Texas because of the Keystone project; creation of
18 50,000 jobs immediately.

19 As you all know, it's so important right
20 now to have a job. There's thousands and thousands
21 of people that are looking for an opportunity to work
22 and to feed their family. 48 million in tax revenues

23

1 for Texas. 2.3 billion in new spending in Texas as a
2 result of Keystone.

3 Now the benefits to the U.S. economy. \$7
4 billion privately funded infrastructure project, not
5 requiring a single dollar of taxpayer money,
6 stimulating creation of 118,000 spinoff jobs during
7 the construction, and at least 280,000 permanent jobs
8 once the pipeline is up and running.

9 486 million in tax revenues for states
10 during the pipeline's construction, stimulating 20.9
11 million of new spending, a real boost to the U.S.
12 economy. Now facts about Keystone: Keystone will
13 link reliable supplies of Canadian and potential U.S.
14 domestic production to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries.
15 The U.S. portion of Keystone is owned by a U.S.
16 entity, TransCanada Keystone pipeline, with
17 headquarters in Houston, Texas.

18 Nearly 25 percent of the oil Keystone
19 brings to U.S. refineries may be U.S. domestic
20 production from Montana and North Dakota. Keystone
21 meets or exceeds all U.S. safety and environmental
22 standards. Thank you for your time.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
3 Number 92, please.

4 MS. TRIGG-CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. My
5 name is Julia Trigg-Crawford, J-U-L-I-A, T-R-I-G-G,
6 C-R-A-W-F-O-R-D. I am a landowner in Lamar County
7 and the only one in my county who has not signed an
8 agreement allowing TransCanada to steal my land.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. TRIGG-CRAWFORD: There are many
11 reasons we have not signed. One of the most
12 important is that TransCanada wants to put their
13 pipeline through an area of our farm that has
14 incredible cultural significance. Even the
15 archaeological engineering firm hired by TransCanada,
16 SWCA, says this particular piece of land should be
17 eligible for Texas historical landmark and National
18 Registry of Historic Places designations.

19 Even so, TransCanada wants to dig up this
20 30 acre pasture for their pipeline. Situated in the
21 middle of our farm is one of the most significant
22 Caddo Indian burial sites in Texas. The boundaries

23

1 of this village extend for over one-half mile east
2 and south, and directly in the pasture in question.
3 TransCanada had to abandon their first route through
4 this pasture, because of the Caddo artifacts they
5 found on their first survey. SWCA's second survey, a
6 little farther south, incredibly found no cultural
7 material.

8 Our family has been finding Indian
9 artifacts on our farm for over 60 years. So with
10 this finding, we started to question TransCanada's
11 assertion that there were no artifacts in the prime
12 part of our land. In late August, we received a
13 letter from TransCanada saying we had three business
14 days to sign the easement agreement, or it would
15 expire and they would have no recourse but to condemn
16 our land and take it through eminent domain.

17 Even though we have reached out to
18 negotiate, TransCanada has gone radio silent.
19 Suspecting they are proceeding with eminent domain,
20 we've decided to take action on our own. We hired an
21 archaeological consulting firm to resurvey the five
22 acre strip of land SWCA said was clear. We surveyed

1 a 50 by 1,000 foot strip directly on top of
2 TransCanada's proposed route, using the exact same
3 methodology and standards that they did.

4 Our results were very, very different.
5 Our samples are in the lab being reviewed, and the
6 final report is being compiled. Needless to say, we
7 are glad we took a second look. This process with
8 TransCanada, now spanning four years, has been
9 incredibly frustrating. We know, and experts concur,
10 that our land is full of Caddo Indian artifacts.

11 To hear that a clear sliver of land has
12 been found for the pipeline, bordered on three sides
13 by off-limits cultural sites, certainly seems
14 suspect, and it is because of this we pushed back on
15 TransCanada's questionable findings. Unlike the two
16 Messrs. Treadwells, No. 56 and No. 59, we do not feel
17 like we have been treated fairly.

18 I personally oppose TransCanada's Keystone
19 XL pipeline. I oppose it for the destruction caused
20 to boreal forest, for contaminated trailing ponds and
21 the animals poisoned by this water. Block the
22 pipeline.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Certainly. I'm sorry to say
2 -- all right. Thank you for your comments. I
3 appreciate it.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Number 93, please. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. MINICK: Thank you. My name is
8 Stephen Minick, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, M-I-N-I-C-K. I'm here
9 today representing the Texas Association of Business.
10 We're a broad-based bipartisan organization
11 representing more than 3,000 small and large
12 employers in Texas, and over 200 local Chambers of
13 Commerce.

14 I appreciate the opportunity to be here
15 today, and offer our complete support for the
16 Keystone pipeline project. The benefits of this
17 project are simply too significant to ignore, and are
18 available at a time when arguably they have never
19 been needed more. This project will provide a
20 significant number of jobs and capital investment,
21 and more importantly, significant tax revenue to
22 states, municipalities, local school districts and
23

1 other municipal local governments, at times when
2 budget reductions have severely constrained the
3 ability of these levels of government to continue to
4 function and to maintain the basic services and needs
5 of their constituents.

6 The Keystone XL project is particularly
7 important to Texas, in that it will maintain the
8 ability of Texas to continue to supply needed energy
9 products and other manufactured goods to national and
10 global markets, while the nation as a whole will
11 benefit from trade with a stable and friendly
12 partner.

13 The enormous value of this project, in
14 terms of national security, simply cannot be
15 overlooked and it cannot be overstated. What has
16 been overstated are the risks associated with this
17 project. Clearly, pipelines are statistically the
18 safest method for transporting the products at issue
19 here. We're to the point this pipeline will
20 establish new standards for construction and safety.

21 Much of the opposition to this project
22 comes from those who are frustrated at what they

23

1 perceive to be a lack of progress on a specific
2 energy policy agenda. This opposition may highlight
3 and publicize that agenda. But actually, it has very
4 little to do specifically with this project.

5 While we can appreciate the opportunity to
6 debate that policy, decision-makers must not lose
7 sight of the fact that the failure to approve this
8 project will not advance the agenda. In fact, it can
9 be clearly demonstrated that leaving Canada to pursue
10 other options for markets for its energy resources,
11 will result in additional environmental impacts,
12 impacts that those opposing this project have
13 historically worked hard to avoid.

14 This decision is really about two options.
15 Number one, we improve our energy security and stable
16 trade relations with a historic partner, and increase
17 jobs and capital investment at a critical time.
18 Under the other, we accomplish none of that, while we
19 watch competitive nations avail themselves of our
20 neighbor's energy resources, and deal with an even
21 greater environmental impact. We believe the choice
22 is obvious and we urge you to make it. Thank you.

23

1 MR. MAGGIO: Could you restate your name
2 again please? What is your name again?

3 MR. MINICK: Stephen Minick, M-I-N-I-C-K.
4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
6 comments. Number 94, please.

7 MS. WALKER: Hi. My name is Evelyn
8 Walker, W-A-L-K-E-R. I'm not affiliated with any
9 group here. I'm one of the 14 million currently
10 unemployed United States citizens. I've heard many
11 people here speak about the need for these jobs that
12 the pipeline may provide us, and I understand that
13 they're very needed. These jobs are needed.

14 But I do not think that they are exactly
15 what we need here. I have no doubt that we could
16 build the best pipeline in the world, but even the
17 best builder is only as good as his materials, and
18 the current technology. A safer pipeline is not the
19 same as a safe pipeline. It's like safer sex. If
20 you want to be safe, you abstain.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MS. WALKER: There's scant information
23

1 currently available about how tar sands crude behave
2 under the current pipeline standards. Some
3 information even points to the corrosive properties
4 of the tar sands crude. I do not want my United
5 States of America to be the testing ground for a new,
6 safe pipeline, safer pipeline.

7 We need more studies to determine the true
8 impact of transporting this type of new crude across
9 our country. I cannot support a short-term job fix
10 that will bring long-term potential problems. We can
11 create jobs; we cannot create a new planet.
12 Approving this permit does not help the nation wean
13 itself from foreign oil, and carries long-term
14 potential for disaster.

15 Sure, the impact of the pipeline might be
16 minimal, right up until a catastrophic event occurs.
17 The Exxon Valdez wasn't a problem until it ran
18 aground and started leaking. The BP oil rig was
19 fine, right up until the explosion, and then it
20 wasn't. The XL pipeline impact may be minimal, up
21 until that first spill or accident, or even a
22 possible terrorist attack.

23

1 We can and will build a better economy,
2 but we should not sacrifice our long-term
3 environmental safety for the sake of the almighty
4 dollar. We must draw a line somewhere. I beg you,
5 draw it in the tar sands. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
8 Number 95, please.

9 MR. ADAIR: Well good afternoon. My name
10 is Bob Adair, A-D-A-I-R. I am an employee of
11 ConocoPhillips, but I am speaking as a citizen. I
12 support approval for construction of the Keystone XL
13 pipeline for the following four reasons.

14 Number one, response to economic demand.
15 Approval to construct the next phase of the Keystone
16 pipeline to the Texas Gulf Coast is needed to
17 transport this large supply of crude oil from Canada
18 to the region with the most refining capacity in the
19 U.S.

20 Number two, work and jobs. Independent
21 studies indicate this pipeline will add thousands of
22 full-time jobs for U.S. workers and billions in
23

1 annual total expenditures for the U.S. economy.

2 These are good-paying, career level jobs.

3 Number three, reduce reliance on oil from

4 volatile regions. Enough has been said about that

5 already. Number four, responsible operator.

6 Although imperfect, as all companies and people are,

7 TransCanada has a responsible record of safety,

8 environmental compliance, community relations and

9 financial soundness.

10 I support added regulation. However,

11 TransCanada is the type of company that federal,

12 state and local governments should welcome their

13 capital investment and expedite project approval.

14 Based on these reasons, a Presidential permit for the

15 Keystone XL pipeline project is definitely in the

16 U.S. national interest.

17 This is not just my opinion. 282 letters

18 of support are posted on TransCanada's website. I

19 copied and pasted the list and ran some quick stats.

20 The list includes 86 businesses and business

21 associations and other private supporters. It also

22 includes government leaders, including two cities,

23

1 seven counties, seven governors, 39 state
2 representatives, seven state senators, 111 U.S.
3 Representatives, 20 U.S. Senators, three Canadian
4 government officials.

5 Although I'm significantly less
6 influential, I enthusiastically add my name to this
7 list. I respectfully request approval as soon as the
8 law and/or regulations allow. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
11 Number 96, please.

12 MR. SOVIL: Good afternoon. My name is
13 Robert Sovil, S-O-V as in Victor, I-L. I am a
14 student here at the University of Texas. I'm a
15 senior on track to graduate with a Bachelor of
16 Science degree in Petroleum Engineering this coming
17 May.

18 So when I say that I'm a senior, I really
19 mean that in every fact, because I'm a non-
20 traditional student who's made the choice to go back
21 to school, to get the training to go back into the
22 workplace as an educated individual.

23

1 One of the things that we've been taught
2 here at what's considered one of the finest Petroleum
3 Engineering departments in the world, is that
4 basically oil consumption in the United States is
5 about 20 million barrels per day. We only produce
6 about half that domestically.

7 Quite frankly, there's very little chance
8 that we're going to discover huge, conventional
9 reserves that will make up that gap, so that we will
10 not be dependent on foreign oil. Canada is our
11 largest partner here close, that doesn't have to
12 transport oil across the sea.

13 This pipeline, as it's designed, is the
14 right thing to do. It represents another important
15 piece of our nation's economic security, and it
16 allows our country to tap in with what is the most
17 exciting thing in our industry, and that's
18 unconventional petroleum reserves that we're
19 discovering every day now.

20 So I stand here in support of this
21 pipeline, and believe it is in the interest of the
22 United States to have it built. Thank you.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
3 Number 97, please.

4 MR. OYERVIDES: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Juan Oyervides, O-Y-E-R-V-I-D-E-S. I'm here to
6 read a letter from the chairman of our organization.
7 "Dear Secretary Clinton, the U.S. Hispanic
8 Contractors Association is a national organization
9 with chapters in 13 states throughout the United
10 States, committed to provide advocacy, support and
11 advancement for the economic growth of our members."

12 "On behalf of the U.S. HCA, we wish to
13 convey our support for the development and
14 construction of the Keystone XL pipeline project. We
15 firmly believe that this is a significant project and
16 opportunity to create an economic stimulus for our
17 state and country. We support the Keystone XL
18 pipeline project because it will have a direct and
19 immediate economic impact on the Hispanic
20 construction firms in Texas, and create potential
21 subcontracting opportunities throughout the
22 development of this project."

23

1 "In addition, this project will enable
2 Hispanic-owned construction firms to hire and sustain
3 more workers. Collaterally, this will also increase
4 the number of businesses in support of the
5 construction industry, such as tool suppliers,
6 equipment sales, machine repair shops and auto
7 repairs, to name a few."

8 "We also support the Keystone XL pipeline
9 because of the economic benefit it will provide to
10 the state of Texas oil and gas industry. The
11 pipeline is expected to create thousands of
12 construction and oil and gas jobs in the state, and
13 will supply Canadian and domestic crude oil to
14 refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast."

15 "The state's economy is driven by the
16 construction industry, and this pipeline will make it
17 stronger. Keystone XL means more construction jobs,
18 more refinery jobs and more activity economically
19 across the state. We respectfully ask that the State
20 Department and President Obama's administration to
21 support our Hispanic construction companies and
22 Hispanic construction workers by approving the

23

1 Keystone XL permit request. Thank you for your
2 consideration. Kindest regards, Frank Fuentes,
3 Chairman, U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
6 comments.

7 MR. OYERVIDES: You're welcome.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Number 98, please.

9 MS. BLAIS: Hi. My name is Cara Blais, C-
10 A-R-A, Blais, B as in Boy, L-A-I-S as in Sam. I am a
11 senior Petroleum Engineering student here at the
12 University of Texas, and I know some people are
13 already thinking that I'm an ignorant young girl.
14 But I just want to tell you that I am not ignorant.

15 A lot of people my age are not ignorant,
16 and I spent the last four years of my life learning
17 about petroleum, learning about pipelines, things
18 like how petroleum is transported, and I am a member
19 of the SP Eastern Chapter here at the University of
20 Texas, but I'm only here to represent myself and what
21 I think about this.

22 A lot has been brought up about jobs. Of
23

1 course, a new pipeline like this will bring a lot of
2 immediate jobs, welding jobs, everything like that.
3 But it will also bring jobs for years and years to
4 come, and petroleum engineers need to keep up with
5 pipelines, make sure there are no leaks, things like
6 that, maintenance. There has to be maintenance, and
7 jobs will be created for years and years to come with
8 that.

9 Also, a lot of counties that this pipeline
10 will go through will actually get tax revenues from
11 this pipeline. Since this oil will be continuously
12 flowing, these revenues will make sure that when
13 people my age are ready to start a family, have kids,
14 I know that if I live here because of this pipeline,
15 that my kids will be going to good schools. The
16 roads that I drive on will be nice roads.

17 More and more jobs will be created because
18 of this, if you live in a nice area, people come to
19 it. That's just all there is to it, and coming from
20 someone who is actually going to be affected by this
21 for years and years to come, I just see it as a
22 positive thing. It's not a negative thing. It's not

1 only immediate. It's going to be good in the future.

2 I would also like to say that I know that
3 Canada is right above in North America, and I just
4 think that it's a very good thing to be getting oil
5 from somewhere that is in North America. We don't
6 have to go overseas to fight for it. People in my
7 generation will have to be fighting harder to get it,
8 to go overseas as a way of trying to get it.

9 I also, I do agree that we should look for
10 forms of new energy, but I know from my education
11 that these are not viable resources right now, this
12 moment, or in the short-term, a few years to come.
13 So although we should be looking for new forms of
14 energy, they won't be here for a long time, and we
15 need this pipeline now, to support America now.
16 That's all I'd like to say.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you very
19 much for your comments. Number 99, please.

20 MR. RUIZ: I believe that was actually 98.

21

22 MS. COLEMAN: Some of the names are not

23

1 matching with our list. So okay. So your number is?

2 MR. RUIZ: 98.

3 MS. COLEMAN: 98, okay.

4 MR. RUIZ: Okay, how you doing? My name
5 is Ceasar Ruiz, and I'm C-E-A-S-A-R, R-U-I-Z.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

7 MR. RUIZ: I'm a member of the American GI
8 Forum of Texas, an organization committed to our
9 veterans and their families' needs. Now today I've
10 heard a lot of bantering back and forth about jobs
11 and the economy, or our resources and the
12 environment, and I'd like all of you to take a step
13 back and look at this for a second from a veteran's
14 perspective.

15 We veterans, actually in the American GI
16 Forum, believe that it is no longer acceptable to
17 have our service members overseas fighting and dying
18 securing the natural resources for other countries,
19 whose sole intent is doing our citizens harm.

20 We're the ones out there fighting. We're
21 the ones out there dying, and we're seeing them with
22 the billion dollar buildings and everything else, and

23

1 we come back home, and we're paying between \$3 and \$4
2 a gallon. We believe this is unacceptable.

3 Furthermore, we believe that -- as I said,
4 many of these countries, their sole intent is doing
5 us harm. We believe there is no reason for this to
6 continue, and this insanity will continue if we do
7 not build this Keystone project. Furthermore, it has
8 to do with jobs. This is a big thing with jobs.

9 Currently, veterans suffer an 11 percent
10 unemployment rate. This is higher. This is insane.
11 These guys are coming back, and ladies are coming
12 back, and they have no jobs. We firmly believe that
13 the Keystone project will bring jobs to our veterans.
14 It will build and boost this economy, and it will
15 help us as a country grow.

16 Therefore, we urge you and the President
17 to allow this project to continue or to start, and
18 help this country prosper.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
21 I appreciate it. Number 99.

22 MR. MORGAN: Hi. I think I'm number 99.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, very good.

2 MR. MORGAN: My name is Todd Morgan, T-O-
3 D-D, M-O-R-G-A-N.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, please proceed.

5 MR. MORGAN: I'm here representing the
6 Houston Association of Petroleum Landmen. I have
7 three words that you may not have heard today, but I
8 think everyone will appreciate. I'll be brief. My
9 association, the landmen that I represent don't have
10 a direct interest in this. We provide a biolake and
11 the exploration for production of natural gas and oil
12 in Texas, but we're not directly related to this.

13 We don't have a bunch of jobs on the line
14 on this, but the 1,500 members in Houston and the
15 roughly 10,000 members statewide in our industry have
16 one thing in common with most of the people in the
17 room that are in favor of this project. We support
18 an energy policy that is more secure and that can do
19 something for us now, rather than the promise of what
20 might happen in the future.

21 The landmen of the state work every day in
22 order to help secure natural resources, to get to

23

1 refineries to distribute around the country. We
2 believe that this and projects like this will benefit
3 everyone in the country, and lead us toward a better
4 energy policy down in the future. Thank you very
5 much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
8 I appreciate it. Number 100, please.

9 MR. MARTINEZ: Hello. Hi. My name is
10 Gustavo Martinez, M-A-R-T-I-N-E-Z. I'm a native
11 Texan and I'm a citizen of the United States, and I'm
12 going to live on this planet until I die, and we
13 won't get another one.

14 I'm not addressing the environmental or
15 economic outcomes of this pipeline in the abstract.
16 I want to address the people here today directly, and
17 express my surprise and sadness about our dependency
18 on a resource that's running out. I'm surprised to
19 see so many dedicated union workers and family men
20 and women supporting an industry which will not last
21 into your children's children's lifetimes, and which
22 will pollute their air, their water and their land.

23

1 We don't need to find new or secure sources of oil.

2 We need to go beyond oil.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MARTINEZ: Corporate spokespeople say
5 if we do not act, others will seize the tar sands to
6 make you afraid. They say this to control what you
7 do. They say our economic health depends on it. An
8 economy is people working to give one another what
9 they need and desire. When we do this well, everyone
10 benefits, and when we do it poorly, few benefit at
11 the expense of many.

12 It is our responsibility to repair our
13 economy through interdependence and cooperation that
14 benefits us and our people, not distant executives.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. MARTINEZ: If you are afraid about
17 putting food on your table, I say plant a garden or
18 fruit trees with your neighbors. If you are afraid
19 of keeping a roof over your head, build a sturdy,
20 beautiful energy efficient, environmentally friendly
21 home from cob or from adobe. If you are afraid of
22 finding work, work together to create jobs that will

23

1 support your livelihoods now and into the future.

2 Come speak with us and speak with your other

3 neighbors, and with them create jobs that you need.

4 What we need for life is clean air,

5 shelter, healthy food and pure water. If you look

6 around the world, you will not find a single other

7 person who does not need those things. If you look

8 at your neighbors, you will not find one of them who

9 does not need those things.

10 We cannot continue to live in this world

11 without coming together to help one another. Feel

12 free to come speak to me or to anybody in a blue

13 shirt or a green shirt or any suit, and idea and

14 discuss what we need from one another, because the

15 only way to create jobs is to work together. Thank

16 you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your thoughts.

19 Number 101, please.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: 102.

22 (No response.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: 103, okay.

2 MR. MAGGIO: Please come down toward the
3 microphones if your number's coming up please? Yes.
4 What's your number.

5 MR. GALLEGOS: 102.

6 MS. COLEMAN: 102, okay.

7 MR. GALLEGOS: Yeah. My name is Armando
8 Gallegos, G-A double L, E-G-O-S, and I am commercial
9 lead, Foreign Operations, at ConocoPhillips in
10 Houston. I want to express strong support for the
11 Keystone XL pipeline project being planned by
12 TransCanada.

13 The United States has an unprecedented
14 opportunity to enhance our energy cooperation with
15 Canada, a trusted ally with a long history of mutual
16 economic and national security interests, as well as
17 a highly valued trading partner. Canada is endowed
18 with the third largest oil reserves in the world.
19 The Keystone XL pipeline would provide a physical
20 link to these resources and enhance U.S. energy
21 security.

22 Specifically, the Keystone XL pipeline

23

1 opens new markets for crude oil produced both in
2 Canada and the U.S., and provides new supplies for
3 Gulf Coast and other inland refineries along its
4 route. The Gulf Coast is critically important to
5 energy security, because nearly half of the total
6 U.S. refining capacity is located there.

7 Many of these refineries are specifically
8 designed to process heavy crude oils like Canadian
9 oil sands. They are capable of converting heavy
10 crude oils into the cleanest-burning fuels in the
11 world. The Department of State supplemental draft
12 environmental impact statement points out that some
13 40 countries supplied crude oil to Gulf Coast
14 refineries in 2009.

15 More than 60 percent of the Gulf Coast
16 crude supply came from four countries: Mexico,
17 Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria. The EIS also
18 states that crude oil availability from Mexico and
19 Venezuela has declined steadily, and it is expected
20 to continue dropping in the years ahead.

21 This outlook underscores the importance of
22 diverse and reliable sources of crude oil to our

1 nation's energy security. In every scenario or
2 study, the EIS found that increased imports of
3 Canadian crude oil will reduce U.S. imports of
4 foreign oil from sources outside North America. We
5 should not weaken our energy security by denying the
6 infrastructure needed to strategically access North
7 America's oil resources.

8 Maintaining a competitive edge for
9 refiners in the U.S. goes hand in hand with ensuring
10 our energy security. We continuously make
11 investments, and must operate to the highest
12 standards to maintain that edge. We cannot stand
13 still in the face of global competition.

14 At an operational level, the long-term
15 competitiveness of our U.S. refineries depends on
16 having flexibility to access the most economical
17 sources of crude oil, and efficient means to deliver
18 them to market.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, I'm sorry to say that
20 we've reached the end of the time.

21 MR. GALLEGOS: Thank you.

22 MS. COLEMAN: Would you mind submitting
23

1 your comments to the desk at the back? We'll look at
2 them. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: 103, please.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: 104.

7 MR. MARC RODRIGUEZ: Good evening. My
8 name is Marc Rodriguez, M-A-R-C, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z.
9 I'm here in support of the Keystone XL pipeline. I'm
10 a Texas business owner and also a board member and
11 representative for the United States Hispanic Chamber
12 of Commerce.

13 Since its inception in 1979, the USHCC has
14 worked towards bringing the issues and concerns of
15 more than three million Hispanic-owned businesses to
16 the forefront of the national economic agenda, and
17 this industrial sector is a significant component to
18 our organizational success.

19 USHCC supports the Keystone XL pipeline
20 because of the economic benefit. We, as Hispanic
21 entrepreneurs, believe we are a direct team player
22 for improving our economy, and a participant of the

23

1 new economy of the new demographic. We have
2 submitted letters of support to Secretary Clinton.
3 We have submitted written testimony today. We
4 appreciate our ability to speak today, and are
5 committed to maintaining our involvement in an
6 infrastructure project providing solutions for
7 America. We respectfully request your approval.
8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
11 Appreciate it. 105, please.

12 MR. RITTENHOUSE: Hello. Is it possible
13 to cede any extra time to another speaker?

14 MS. COLEMAN: This gets very complicated.
15 Can we just, I'd just like to proceed through those
16 who have signed up.

17 MR. RITTENHOUSE: If somebody had more to
18 say and they weren't able to finish.

19 MS. COLEMAN: I'd like to -- yeah. All
20 right, thank you.

21 MR. RITTENHOUSE: No, that's okay. My
22 name is Ryan Rittenhouse. That's R-I-T-T-E-N-H-O-U-

23

1 S-E. I work for Greenpeace USA, and I am here today
2 to speak against this project. There's a lot of
3 people here that this is the first time in their
4 lives and a lot of organizations. But this is the
5 first time ever that they have opposed a pipeline.

6 There's a very good reason for that.
7 That's because this is not a normal pipeline. This
8 tar sands, and that's the real thing to keep in mind
9 here. This is not about whether we're going to
10 create jobs or not. This is about what kind of jobs
11 we're going to create. This is about what kind of
12 infrastructure we are going to invest in, looking
13 forward.

14 Every time we go ahead and let
15 infrastructure like this go through, which is a
16 dirtier source of energy than anything we've seen
17 before, that supplants clean energy that we could
18 have built instead. Don't fool yourself into
19 thinking that we can just do it all. There's a very
20 finite amount of energy we need.

21 So if we meet some of that energy with
22 something like the tar sands, that's going to kill

23

1 the need to build wind farms or solar farms, or
2 anything like that, which are going to produce more
3 jobs than this would for you, more construction jobs,
4 all across the board. All of the trickle down jobs
5 you keep hearing about talked about today, the same
6 thing will happen.

7 But you're killing that by supporting this
8 dirty and unnecessary project. There's only one more
9 thing I want to say, and that is that there's another
10 myth going around that we can somehow get off of
11 Middle Eastern oil by developing and helping to
12 develop Canadian tar sands oil.

13 Oil is a global commodity. You'll never
14 be able to divest from Middle Eastern oil until we
15 stop our reliance upon oil. It's not about
16 supplanting Middle Eastern oil --

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. RITTENHOUSE: --with Canadian oil, a
19 dirtier oil. It's about getting rid of our addiction
20 to this drug. If you're addicted to heroin, you
21 don't say oh, I'll just switch to something else, you
22 know. We have to break this addiction, and we have

23

1 the opportunity now. We have the technologies. We
2 can build wind farms. We can build solar panels.
3 You shake your head but we do. We're building it
4 everywhere. Electric cars are rolling off the line,
5 and we need your help to get that done.

6 This is exactly the wrong direction that
7 we need to be going as a state, as a country, as a
8 world, as a race. We have to stop going backwards
9 and start going forwards. Please deny this project.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
12 106, please.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: No. 106, 107? Okay.

15 MS. ING: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Leigh Ing. That's spelled L-E-I-G-H, I-N-G.
17 Although I currently do work for the oil and gas
18 industry as well as for environmental interests in
19 Texas, I also worked for Texas state government for
20 12 years. During that time, I participated in or
21 oversaw remediations of contaminations from sites as
22 small as gas stations, to as large as major

23

1 industrial complexes.

2 My experiences included remediations with
3 pipelines as well, and this is what that experience
4 showed me. First of all, pipeline spills are really
5 very rare, especially from new pipelines. One of the
6 reasons for this, that I noticed when I worked for
7 Texas state government, is that pipeline companies
8 don't want to face Texas state government. They
9 didn't want to pay the penalties, they didn't want to
10 incur the costs associated with remediations. So the
11 presence of us was one strong driver to ensure that
12 the technology put in place to keep pipelines safe
13 was maintained.

14 In addition, when a pipeline spill did
15 occur, they were quickly identified, the pipeline was
16 no longer allowed to operate until the leak was
17 fixed. We could easily and quickly identify the
18 scope of that contamination and use Texas' rules,
19 which are very strict and health-based, to remediate
20 that spill.

21 So based on my experience, I believe the
22 Keystone project can and will be operated safely, and

23

1 I believe the safeguards are in place and there are
2 drivers to ensure that the environment will be
3 protected, and that any risk associated with the
4 environment are quite low and certainly shouldn't be
5 used to prevent the jobs and opportunities that this
6 pipeline would bring to this country. So I support
7 the Keystone pipeline project.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
10 Well, I will proceed to the next number. We do have
11 a person who has come from -- a local official, Mr.
12 Barry Smitherman, the Texas Railroad Commissioner.

13 VOICE: He's got to stand in line just
14 like we do.

15 MS. COLEMAN: We would like to ask this
16 gentleman to speak for a few minutes, and then we'll
17 get right back to our --

18 VOICES: Get in line.

19 MR. SMITHERMAN: Well, I'm delighted to
20 have the opportunity to be here, and thank you all
21 for letting me go. This great crowd is very
22 encouraging. In today's Austin-American Statesman, I

23

1 authored an editorial on the benefits of the Keystone
2 project, where I talked about jobs, tax creation, the
3 ability to build more refineries on the Texas Gulf
4 Coast, and the ability to move more Canadian product,
5 one of our best and most friendliest trading
6 partners, down into Texas, and to our Texas refiners.

7 Just to put some real numbers on some of
8 the rhetoric I heard a few moments ago, the U.S.
9 daily demand for crude is about 20 million barrels a
10 day. We supply about five and a half of that, and we
11 get another five and half or so from our friends in
12 Canada and Mexico. That leaves us needing to fill
13 about a nine million barrel a day gap, and about five
14 million barrels of that we get from OPEC. Let me
15 repeat that. About five million a day we get from
16 OPEC.

17 OPEC supplies one-third of the world's
18 daily crude demand. Now make sure you understand who
19 makes up OPEC. We have these bastions of democracy,
20 Saudi Arabia, Iran and Venezuela. In fact, I was
21 intrigued today. In the Wall Street Journal was a
22 story of a Saudi Arabian women being sentenced to
23

1 receiving ten lashes for having the temerity to drive
2 a vehicle.

3 This Keystone project will deliver about a
4 million barrels a day. That's almost enough, almost
5 enough, and perhaps with additional growth enough, to
6 eliminate our need to buy from Saudi Arabia. I see a
7 lot --

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SMITHERMAN: I see a lot of women in
10 this audience, and I have a daughter. If you believe
11 in democracy, human rights and freedom, you will take
12 whatever necessary step we can to facilitate the
13 development of this project. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Thank
16 you very much. Now we would like to go to number
17 108, please. 108.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: 109?

20 (No response.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: 110. Excuse me, sir.

22 What's your number?

23

1 (No response.)

2 MR. CURO: 111.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Well, I guess we're at 111.
4 111, please.

5 MR. CURO: Hi. My name is Miguel Curo, M-
6 I-G-U-E-L, last name C-U-R-O. I'm a student here at
7 the Petroleum Engineering, for Petroleum Engineering
8 here at UTM, a junior, and I just wanted to say some
9 things about the Keystone pipeline. One thing to
10 everyone out there speaking, I really appreciate that
11 we have both sides here, and I know that some people
12 are scared and worried about this pipeline.

13 People were scared when the Model T car
14 came out. People were deathly scared when commercial
15 airplanes started coming out. What would the effects
16 of these things be? I don't really know that.

17 But really in the grand scheme of things,
18 how did this meeting even get together with all these
19 people? You probably took a car here. If you're not
20 from Austin, you might have taken a plane here. You
21 might have taken a train.

22 Really what energy has done for us is it's

23

1 allowed us to live a more comfortable life here, and
2 really I think that's something that a lot of people
3 are forgetting here, and that energy is a big part of
4 that.

5 I do agree that in the future, alternative
6 energy will rise as a bigger part of our energy
7 portfolio. But right now, when you come to it,
8 fossil fuels are the majority and they're the easiest
9 way for us to continue our source of energy for right
10 now in the near future.

11 So really this pipeline is a big part of
12 that, especially coming from Canada. With that, it
13 will allow us to continue to a more better,
14 comfortable lifestyle, and I really think that some
15 people here are forgetting that. But really, it's a
16 good thing, and so I'm in full support of the
17 Keystone pipeline. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
20 Number 112, please.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: 113? Thank you.

23

1 MR. ARIAS: Hi. My name is Brandon Arias,
2 B-R-A-N-D-O-N, A-R-I-A-S, and I'm the Vice President
3 of the Sierra Student Coalition here at the
4 University of Texas at Austin. I was one among the
5 multitude a couple of months ago, who never heard
6 anything about the Keystone pipeline or tar sands.
7 This is a topic that has lacked coverage in the
8 media. But once I learned the facts about tar sands,
9 I realized why.

10 Of course, large oil corporations such as
11 ExxonMobil will want to keep this out of the media.
12 If all the citizens of America knew the truth, these
13 corporations would struggle getting a permit passed,
14 which will leave a huge dent in their wallets. If
15 this Keystone pipeline is constructed, not only will
16 America's environment suffer, but the lives of our
17 fellow Americans as well.

18 For the past couple of weeks, I have been
19 informing my fellow classmates about the detrimental
20 effects this pipeline will bring among us. A
21 majority had a look of anguish on their faces as I
22 revealed to them the path of the pipeline through

23

1 Texas, as the majority of them had family in the
2 area.

3 I myself have family in the Houston area
4 that will be directly affected by the harmful impacts
5 of this pipeline. This is only but one of my motives
6 to be standing here, expressing my complete
7 opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. I strongly
8 believe that America was finally headed in the right
9 direction when it comes to energy. However, if we go
10 to tar sands, we will be digressing.

11 Everywhere I look, I see alternative and
12 sustainable energy sources being applied to power our
13 technology in our buildings. America needs to invest
14 their time and their money in clean energy. Tar sand
15 oil is not something we should be wasting our time
16 on. It has too many consequences, prices we won't be
17 able to pay. How will our nation be able to survive
18 with another oil spill, especially in the Ogallala
19 aquifer, one of America's largest water sources?

20 With a contaminated water supply, our
21 public health will be at risk. In addition, Texas
22 being in one of the worst droughts in history, can't

23

1 handle a diminishing water supply, as it is a state
2 based on agriculture. I live in the city of
3 Pflugerville, and as of a month or so ago, we have
4 been put on a mandatory water conservation stage.

5 We are threatened with fines if we
6 irrigate our lands on certain days. The feeling of
7 hopelessness enters my soul as I look around and see
8 all the dry landscape and decaying plants. Our water
9 source is now more valuable than ever, and we need to
10 do what we can to conserve it.

11 Not only do we have to worry about our
12 water sources, but our air quality as well. Our
13 planet is rapidly reaching the threshold of the
14 amount of carbon dioxide it can sustain, and tar sand
15 releases a significant amount compared to other
16 energy sources.

17 So if we do -- if this pipeline is built,
18 it will be for our planet earth, as James Hansen
19 said, "game over."

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.

22 Number 113.

23

1 (No response.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Number 114.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Number 115.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Number 116.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Number 117. Okay.

9 MR. GIL RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My
10 name is Gil Rodriguez, G-I-L, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z. I
11 am the chief executive officer of the American GI
12 Forum of Texas, a veteran's organization that is
13 currently chartered in 30 states and in Puerto Rico.

14 We support the XL project and urge the
15 Department of State to approve the pipeline. It's in
16 the best interest of our nation. The Keystone XL
17 pipeline is important to veterans and our nation for
18 several reasons.

19 Keystone XL will provide conflict-free
20 oil. The billions that TransCanada will spend
21 developing Keystone XL will stimulate billions of new
22 spending in the economy, at a time when private

23

1 sector spending is badly needed.

2 Keystone XL will directly create 20,000
3 family-supporting jobs, 13,000 in construction and
4 another 7,000 in manufacturing. The \$7 billion spent
5 developing Keystone XL will stimulate more than
6 118,000 jobs. Building Keystone will increase
7 American personal income by 6.5 billion. Building
8 Keystone XL will lead to more than 585 million in
9 state and local taxes along the pipeline route.

10 Operating Keystone XL will pay property
11 taxes of five billion over the lifetime of the
12 project, allowing cities and counties to invest in
13 new schools, roads and hospitals. The U.S. has a
14 simple choice: receive oil from the secure, stable
15 and long-standing friendly neighbor Canada, or
16 continue to get oil from unstable, unfriendly
17 regimes, overseas that do not share the interests and
18 values of Americans.

19 Keystone XL can reduce America's
20 dependency on oil from Venezuela and the Middle East
21 by up to 40 percent. As much as 25 percent of the
22 oil delivered by Keystone XL will be U.S.-produced

23

1 oil from North Dakota, Montana and Oklahoma, and also
2 West Texas. Domestic oil, which bottlenecks
3 currently, keeps us from getting our oil to our
4 refineries. Keystone is shovel-ready to begin
5 construction very shortly after receiving the permit.

6 That means quickly putting 20,000
7 Americans to work, including pipefitters, welders,
8 mechanics, electricians, heavy equipment operators,
9 most directly veterans. Make no mistake. The
10 American GI Forum is also concerned about the
11 environment, and conscious of preserving our wildlife
12 and maintaining clean air, water supplies --

13 MR. MAGGIO: Sir, thank you very much.
14 The time is up.

15 MR. GIL RODRIGUEZ: Thank very much. We
16 support the pipeline.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Appreciate it. Appreciate
18 your views.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 118 is next, please.

21 MR. NIELSON: Thank you. My name is Jamie
22 Nielson, J-A-M-I-E, N-I-E-L-S-O-N. I'm here today to
23

1 speak on my own behalf. The Keystone XL pipeline, it
2 needs to be built. I support the line because the
3 jobs it will create.

4 Keystone will provide quality employment
5 to a workforce that is waiting to get back on the
6 job. Today, the unemployment rate stands at 9.1
7 percent, and last month, there was no net creations
8 of jobs in this country.

9 The paychecks and jobs provided by
10 Keystone will be the result of private investment in
11 infrastructure, rather than through an artificial
12 stimulus of taxpayer dollars by the government. This
13 is the type of job creation that is the foundation
14 for recovery from the recession, and the generation
15 of long-term prosperity.

16 The pipeline needs to be built to reduce
17 our dependence on overseas oil that originates from
18 areas of the world that are unstable and countries
19 that are downright hostile to America. The crude oil
20 that will be carried by Keystone originates from
21 Canada. No country is more stable or reliable in its
22 exports to the United States.

23

1 National security and the stable economic
2 future require that we recognize and make use of this
3 opportunity for a stable energy supply. Canada has
4 been blessed with a vast oil sand resource that it
5 has chosen to develop. The crude oil will be
6 produced and used. This is regardless of whether
7 Keystone is built or not.

8 The question is, whether that crude oil
9 and the jobs that come with it will come to the
10 United States, for the benefit of its citizens and
11 economy, or whether that crude will be shipped
12 overseas. I ask that the State Department approve
13 the Keystone XL pipeline. Thank you for allowing me
14 to speak today.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Number
17 119, please.

18 MR. PEREZ: My name is Larry Perez. It is
19 spelled P like in Paul, E like in Echo, R like in
20 Romeo, E like in Echo and Z like in Zulu. I am the
21 state commander of the American GI Forum. I'll be
22 very, very brief. The American GI Forum of Texas and

23

1 the United States supports the Keystone pipeline.

2 Canada has supported the United States on
3 many issues. Especially Canada has supported us in
4 all wars, and I ask you, why should we keep buying
5 oil from our enemies in the Middle East, and our
6 enemy in Venezuela? I ask you again, why should we
7 do that?

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PEREZ: The Keystone pipeline will
10 furnish us with oil that is needed here in the United
11 States. I urge you to vote and tell the people in
12 Washington to keep it in their hands, and vote for
13 the Keystone pipeline.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
16 I appreciate it. Number 120, please.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 121.

19 MR. MORALES: Good evening. My name is
20 Antonio Morales, M-O-R-A-L-E-S. I'm the past state
21 and national commander of the American GI Forum.
22 I've come to speak on behalf of the Keystone project,

23

1 based on a lot of my own personal experiences.

2 As a young serviceman, I was trained to be
3 an avionics person, to maintain airplanes that were
4 equipped for only one thing. In case of war, to
5 deliver the nuclear weapons that I had to load and
6 arm, in case of the unforgivable third war.

7 I spent three years sleeping 48 hours on,
8 48 hours off next to an airplane for my three year
9 tour in Europe. When I came home, I was assigned as
10 the civilian to work on the Atlas missile, put them
11 in the ground in Kansas and in Texas, with a nuclear
12 head also aimed to our common enemy at that time,
13 never thinking so much of the consequences, as there
14 was. But it was my duty as an American citizen to
15 defend this country in any form and fashion.

16 I've been an advocate for veterans for
17 over 50 years now, and still continuing. We were the
18 only organization during the Vietnam War that started
19 veterans outreach programs, to talk to the veterans
20 on peer, one to one, and also help them find jobs.
21 No other organization, not the American Legion or
22 VFW, or anybody else, wanted to talk to these

23

1 veterans. We did.

2 Today, the VA has a network all over the
3 country, and we appreciate what they're doing. Our
4 organization and other ones do stand-downs every
5 year. Our stand-downs is to service those veterans
6 that are homeless, jobless. It's a one-day event.
7 Each one of our sides hosts over 1,000 homeless
8 veterans, to give them some clean clothes, a haircut,
9 check their dental and give them some other medical
10 attention.

11 We also now have ranks of homeless women
12 with children. My concern is that these veterans
13 coming home are frustrated because there are no jobs
14 available for them. We believe that Keystone is only
15 one of those projects that can help us get employment
16 for these people, so they can provide for themselves,
17 instead of going the way of a lot of Vietnam
18 veterans. 65,000 Vietnam veterans committed suicide,
19 and it's only 50,000 of them on the wall.

20 We don't want that figure to happen to our
21 veterans coming from Iraq and Afghanistan war. We
22 want jobs. We want to be able to feed our families,

23

1 and you can't do that when you're poor and you have
2 to pay \$3 or \$4 for a gallon of gasoline. Gracias.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

5 121. That was you, 121. Okay, thank you. 122.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. WYMAN: Russell Wyman. I'll be the
8 first in here to acknowledge tonight that yes, I am
9 an addict.

10 COURT REPORTER: Your last name again sir?

11 MR. WYMAN: W-Y-M-A-N. I am dependent on
12 oil, unlike anyone else in here.

13 MR. MAGGIO: What is your affiliation sir?

14 MR. WYMAN: I'm affiliating with the
15 Association for Advancement of Codes, Education and
16 Standards. We provide continuing education for the
17 piping industry. We're a non-profit entity, and we
18 use the revenue from our continuing education classes
19 for our second hat, which is to pursue our watchdog
20 activities with the codes and standards that apply to
21 the piping industry.

22 You know, as far as regulation in the
23

1 state of Texas, the piping industry in the state of
2 Texas is more regulated than any other state in this
3 nation. Regulations started in some form or fashion
4 in 1897 under state law. At this point in time, we
5 have at least five state agencies that regulate
6 piping activities in some form or fashion in this
7 state.

8 As far as oversight, and I think that's
9 what everybody in this room is concerned with is
10 stewardship. We have state agencies in place that
11 could easily regulate these construction activities,
12 ensure that the craftsmen that work on these projects
13 maintain the highest credentials available, and the
14 gentleman that are speaking on the labor side, that's
15 all they were trying to stress earlier is, you know,
16 let the work proceed and use the finest craftsmen
17 that are available to proceed with that.

18 The tar sands are going to be produced no
19 matter what. You want them brought into our state by
20 tanker, or by truck? The safest way to convey it is
21 through the pipeline. Build the pipeline
22 responsibly.

23

1 The only thing that I think we could all
2 agree on is that we should be demanding a second
3 pipeline, and that second pipeline should be for
4 fresh water. It could be piped from Maine, which is
5 considered the Saudi Arabia of water, or from the
6 Great Lakes, and we could replenish our aquifers and
7 provide fresh water to a neglected southwest region
8 that we have now.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
11 Number 123, please.

12 MR. MILLER: My name is Curt Miller. I'm
13 a concerned citizen from Richardson, Texas, which is
14 just north of Dallas. I drove down to Austin
15 yesterday and I stayed in a hotel last night, and
16 this issue is important enough for me to take a
17 couple of days of my own time and my own expense, to
18 let you know how I feel.

19 I will briefly talk about the effects of
20 the pipeline on water and air. The pipeline will
21 cross many, many water sources such as aquifers and
22 rivers. These supply water for millions of people,
23

1 and feed lakes and reservoirs. Contamination of
2 these water supplies will affect millions of people.
3 We cannot afford to have our water contaminated.

4 These concerns are not hypothetical. For
5 instance, on July 26, 2010, the Enbridge tar sands
6 pipeline in Michigan ruptured. It spilled more than
7 one million gallons of toxic crude into the Kalamazoo
8 River, contaminated more than 30 miles of river, and
9 forced many families to evacuate their homes.

10 The proposed pipeline would put thousands
11 of miles of our country's heartland at risk of toxic
12 oil spills that could be even worse than the one in
13 Michigan. This is a risk that we cannot afford to
14 take. If the Keystone XL expansion is built, the
15 refining of the toxic crude will increase air
16 pollution and will increase health problems for
17 millions of people who live near the refineries.

18 The toxic materials in the tar sands
19 crude, such as mercury, lead, arsenic and nickel, are
20 not biodegradable. They can accumulate in the
21 environment and are hazardous to people and wildlife.
22 In summary, water and air are essential for people to

1 survive. Water and air also are parts of our
2 national security. The proposed pipeline would
3 jeopardize these essential elements.

4 Therefore, the pipeline is not in the
5 national interest, and I urge you to deny approval of
6 the pipeline. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
9 Number 124, please.

10 MR. KNORPP: My name is Kerry, K-E-R-R-Y,
11 Knorpp, K-N-O-R-P-P.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

13 MR. KNORPP: I am a fourth generation
14 rancher and well-driller from Gray County, Texas.
15 I'm not, as the Dallas Morning News phrased so
16 eloquently, a fear-mongering environmentalist. I'm
17 not a member of any group here today, whose standards
18 are so low that they would have me as a member. But
19 I am honored to appear before you today.

20 I'm a former district attorney, an elected
21 county attorney and a former oil and gas attorney who
22 now informally and voluntarily represents

23

1 approximately 42 historic Texas ranches in the
2 Panhandle of Texas.

3 These ranchers own more than 3-1/2 million
4 acres which produce oil and gas. We believe in
5 stewardship of the land. We work with our Texas
6 operators daily, who drill on our land, so that care
7 is taken in these operations, to be good stewards in
8 these operations.

9 We believe in our own oil industry. We
10 believe that the Texas oil industry, one of the
11 finest in the world, can produce itself out of the
12 situation that we find ourselves in now. We really
13 don't need the help, despite the testimony today
14 before some of the oil and gas organizations, I
15 think, as a courtesy to their brethren in Canada,
16 that they come on, send it on down.

17 But we believe our own oil industry will
18 be capable of producing adequate oil for the future,
19 as its need dwindles, and we know about pipelines.
20 We have thousands of miles of pipelines on our
21 ranches, and I've heard some real whoppers today.
22 Pipelines are the least regulated and most abusive
23

1 part of the oil and gas industry.

2 But I promised my friends in the pipeline
3 business that this -- to say that this issue is not
4 an accusation against pipelines, it's not an
5 accusation against jobs or building pipelines. It's
6 what this pipeline is bringing into our country.

7 Our main concern at this time is that the
8 danger posed by such a massive construction project.
9 We're particularly aware and concerned about fire
10 hazards and pollution of our aquifers. There have
11 been over 16,000 fires in the state of Texas this
12 year. There have been over four million acres
13 burned.

14 We know from experience that you don't
15 build a pipeline without creating fire hazards. We
16 know that you don't repair pipelines without creating
17 fire hazards. This is nothing against pipelines;
18 it's just a fact. We, because of our experiences
19 with pipelines, know that the reality in the longer
20 term is eventual pipeline failure, and any failure of
21 this line will be catastrophic.

22 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, thank you. I'm going

23

1 to have to call time. But I appreciate your views,
2 and please --

3 MR. KNORPP: I will submit my statement.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Please. Thank you very
5 much. I appreciate it. Number 125, please. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. CASTLEDINE: Hello, my name is
8 Dawnielle Castledine. I'll spell that. D-A-W-N-I-E-
9 L-L-E, C-A-S-T-L-E-D-I-N-E. I'm here representing
10 myself. I hold a Bachelors of Science in
11 Environmental Science and Policy, and I oppose the
12 Keystone pipeline. I will admit I knew nothing about
13 pipelines. From what I've heard today, I think it's
14 interesting that pipelines appear to be the safest
15 way to transport anything like this. That's awesome.
16 I'm all for safe.

17 I will, however, say that that's not good
18 enough. My voice is shaking a lot. I hate public
19 speaking. I'm sorry.

20 MS. COLEMAN: That's okay. We're all with
21 you. Just proceed.

22 MS. CASTLEDINE: Also, climate change

23

1 scares the hell out of me, ha-ha-ha. So the fact
2 that tar sands are one of the highest-emitting things
3 that we can possibly be bringing in right now, uh-uh,
4 not good. I hear every single one in here who is
5 having, sorry, having problems with jobs. I know all
6 about it. My dad's been unemployed for two years.
7 He was a construction worker, still is.

8 But the thing is this isn't a permanent
9 solution. I've heard a lot today, talking about how
10 this will increase our security and this is, you
11 know, a really, really viable solution for us.

12 The thing is, we need to get away from the
13 rhetoric that just says that these are alternative
14 energies that environmentalists are looking at.
15 They're not just alternative to fossil fuels.
16 They're what we call renewable, and fossil fuels are
17 not. They have an expiration point, if you will.

18 This is just a quick fix to a problem.
19 We're always going to need energy, always. But if we
20 invest in infrastructure that would continue to
21 support non-renewable energies, we're going to have
22 to face this problem again soon. We always will. If

23

1 we invest our infrastructure into renewables, we
2 won't have to invest in it as many times.

3 So I ask you yes, our economy is failing
4 us right now. Any of you who need jobs can see that.
5 Let's create a new economy, one where we don't have
6 to keep returning to these issues over again and
7 again, one that is renewable, one that is secure.
8 Thank you. I'm opposed to the pipeline.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
11 I appreciate it. 126, please.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: 127.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: 128.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: 129. Okay.

18 MR. BANBERG: My name is Lief Banberg, L-
19 I-E-F, B-A-N-B-E-R-G. I have RSVP'd for several
20 groups, including the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Credo
21 Mobile and Environmental Defense Fund. But I'm here
22 to speak on behalf of people. I'm a research

23

1 associate at a local biotech company, and I live in
2 work in Austin, Texas. I strongly condemn any
3 proposal to build the Keystone pipeline.

4 I'd like to address a few points that were
5 made today. I changed my speech to address these
6 points. The first is safety. I've heard many people
7 attest to the safety of Keystone. I'd like to point
8 out that virtually every major oil company is involved
9 in a spill today. Shell spilled oil in the North
10 Sea, Chevron in the Gulf, Texaco in the Amazon, and
11 Exxon spilled oil over our glorious Yellowstone Park.
12 Each time, we were promised that these pipelines were
13 safe. Just like the honey words that were spoken
14 today about safety, it's clearly those that are set
15 to profit from the construction of pipelines are
16 naively optimistic, incompetent or just simply cannot
17 be trusted.

18 The second point is health. Extraction
19 and the finding of oil is disgustingly dirty, and
20 causes several cancers and respiratory illnesses. I
21 have cystic fibrosis. For those who are not aware of
22 what that is, it is a genetic condition that has a

23

1 life expectancy of half of a normal person.

2 As such, I know the feeling of having a
3 lung disease imposed on you through no personal
4 fault. In that sense, I feel that I speak for anyone
5 who could not make it here today, who have suffered
6 respiratory illnesses from oil refineries. These
7 health arguments cannot be denied or ignored.

8 My final point is economic. I find it
9 curious that those, the business and oil interests
10 who cite increased tax revenues as a benefit of the
11 Keystone pipeline, in separate arguments say that no
12 taxes shall be raised, no revenue shall be generated,
13 and to limit the scope and size of the federal
14 government as much as possible. Now they are here
15 today pleading for a permit from that same federal
16 government.

17 The short-term jobs will have long-term
18 costs. We need Texans to be concerned about their
19 children's futures, and that of their grandchildren's
20 as well, and don't cow-tow to the status quo.

21 Everyone here should be demanding infrastructure
22 jobs, do no injury or harm to people on the planet.

23

1 The concept that someone would burn this oil anyway
2 is absurd.

3 I live and work in Texas. I don't want
4 blood on my hands or oil on my land. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
7 Number 130, please. Yes.

8 MS. RADILLO: Hi. I'm Patty Radillo, R-A-
9 D-I-L-L-O from Lake Fork, Texas, a reservoir of
10 Dallas, Texas, home to Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer,
11 serving 60 counties in East Texas, both considered
12 low consequence areas by TransCanada, which is
13 offensive beyond words to me.

14 The Communist Chinese government and many
15 other nations not friendly to us have hugely invested
16 in Canadian tar sands and eager for the permit to be
17 approved, to receive returns on their investment and
18 the refined product. Enbridge Oil Company attempted
19 to build a pipeline from Alberta, Canada to the
20 Pacific, to go to Communist China and other nations.
21 Fierce protests by Canadian tribal communities and
22 other Canadian citizens blocked the Gateway project.

23

1 TransCanada admitted they are not
2 competitors but companions with Enbridge Oil Company.
3 On April 29th, 2011, Mr. Girling, the TransCanada
4 CEO, blamed TransCanada's cost increases to U.S.
5 regulatory delays, which were implemented to protect
6 Americans and our interests. Is this privately-owned
7 foreign company entitled to less safety standards
8 than U.S. companies must abide by?

9 It makes no sense for the U.S. to do
10 business with a foreign company that enables the
11 Communist Chinese government who, according to
12 Timothy Geithner just last week, has stolen U.S.
13 technology and cost U.S. businesses alone an
14 estimated \$48 billion and 2.1 million jobs in 2009.

15 It is senseless to sacrifice our land,
16 water and public health for this self-defeating
17 purpose. The Communist Chinese government disregards
18 the welfare and rights of their own citizens, and
19 want Americans to believe that they care about ours.
20 The 2007 Energy Conservation Act, Section 526,
21 prevents the United States government to purchase
22 dirty fuel with U.S. tax dollars for Department of
23

1 Defense purposes.

2 This should be reason enough not to
3 provide it for Communist Chinese, as well as other
4 nations not friendly to us. Concerning jobs, how
5 many businesses and jobs have been devastated by the
6 15 leaks we've had already? We do need jobs,
7 absolutely. So let's repair and build our U.S.
8 infrastructure, which will strengthen our economy,
9 eliminate unemployment almost completely, and build a
10 stronger, safer America for our kids and grandkids.

11 Other nations are doing this and we can
12 too. We need to stay competitive in the 21st century
13 for them. Please preserve our national resources,
14 preserve our national security and create literally
15 millions of positive, constructive and green jobs.
16 Every concern about jobs mentioned here today is
17 absolutely valid, and can be served by repairing and
18 building our infrastructure.

19 President Obama, please deny this self-
20 defeating endeavor, and please deny this permit.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

23

1 131, please.

2 MR. RADILLO: My name is Edward Radillo.
3 That was my wife over there, and I'm going to present
4 my comment in the form of a song. Hey there, Ms.
5 Clinton, have you met the man? The one who tells you
6 lies, all about tar sands? Seems to me you'll find
7 out, just like the Corridor, that this here is Texas,
8 and we're not taking it anymore.

9 Now listen here big company, TransCanada
10 we say, behind your doors are foreigners, who don't
11 see things our way. I'm voting for a way of life and
12 rights to my own land. So listen up true Texans,
13 you've got to lend a hand. Tar sands, Tar sands, see
14 photos on the Net. Those images there are hard to
15 bear and ones you won't forget.

16 Big man who says that what you do is in
17 our country's best. I think a higher power is
18 putting us through this test. If you trust these
19 pipelines, look at Kalamazoo. 800,000 gallons
20 spilled, could happen here to you. It's time to wake
21 up, for those of us with land. Big oil spills, big
22 takeaways, you're on the losing end.

23

1 You took the trees, did as you please up
2 there in Canada. We see your mess and let me guess,
3 will this happen here to us? Tar sands is some nasty
4 stuff. If you don't think it's true, just ask the
5 folks who left their homes up there in Kalamazoo.
6 Tar sands, tar sands, what has our nation done? Does
7 this world still tolerate the plight of Indians? Tar
8 sands, tar sands, the money and the greed. Have we
9 forgot green energy is what we really need.

10 President Obama, listen to this call. Are
11 you going to stand up or are you going to fall? Tar
12 sands, tar sands, most toxic oil of all. In tar
13 sands spills, it spreads and kills, polluting all and
14 all, destroying all and all. Destroying all and all.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
17 comments. Thank you very much. Number 132. 132,
18 please?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 133. Thank you.

21 MS. SCHATTE: Good afternoon. My name is
22 April Schatte, S-C-H-A-T-T-E. This is the first time

23

1 I've ever been compelled to speak in front of a group
2 like this, so please bear with me. I urge you to
3 approve the Keystone XL pipeline, which will provide
4 a steady and reliable supply of a vital resource.

5 We heard the term a few minutes ago of
6 "conflict-free oil." The pipeline will provide
7 thousands of construction jobs immediately, and long-
8 term employment for the operation and maintenance of
9 the pipeline and ancillary businesses. It stays and
10 it pays, the kind of infrastructure project we need
11 for the future of our country.

12 Over decades of development of tar sands,
13 the technology and methodology for extraction has
14 been constantly improved, for reduction of the
15 negative impact on the environment. I am more
16 confident in our Canadian friends' ethical
17 stewardship of the environment than most of the Third
18 World corrupt and hostile foreign countries selling
19 to us now.

20 All of this while we continue to
21 experiment and develop alternative fuels. This
22 pipeline has been designed and engineered to the

23

1 highest industry and PHMSA standards ever, for
2 technical and safety requirements. I believe in the
3 expertise of our American workers, to build the best
4 and safest pipeline anywhere as it should be.

5 I am here as a private citizen, but I will
6 also say that my company is a supplier to
7 TransCanada, and as a supplier, I have met
8 individuals with TransCanada who are of the highest
9 integrity. Thank you very much for your time, and
10 please approve this project.

11 MR. MAGGIO: Could you give the name of
12 your company, please?

13 MS. SCHATTE: I-L-V-A. It's not my
14 company. I work for ILVA.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
17 Number 134, please.

18 MS. CRUMPTON: Yes. My name is Madolyn
19 Crumpton, M-A-D-O-L-Y-N, C-R-U-M-P-T-O-N, and I just
20 want to observe that many of the opinions expressed
21 today by supporters of the Keystone XL pipeline are
22 based on skewed statistics, unsupported speculation

23

1 and obviously TransCanada propaganda.

2 I hear energy security, but the pipeline
3 will not make that possible when the plan is to sell
4 the end product to Asian markets, re: China. And how
5 does TransCanada plan to get the product to its
6 buyers, if not by dangerous tankers over the oceans?
7 I hear how safe the pipeline will be, as supported by
8 testimonials from landowners who have had no problems
9 with pipelines built in the 30's and 40's.

10 Not considered is that these pipelines
11 carry regular oil, not the toxic tar sands proposed
12 here. No one in Texas has experience in tar sand
13 spills, and I might add that regarding codes and
14 standards, the XL pipeline materials will be produced
15 in India. I hear jobs, above all else, but no
16 justification is reasonable to risk the lives and
17 livelihood of all of us for short-term employment for
18 a few. No matter how desperate these job-seekers
19 are, and they have -- and we have heard over and over
20 today that they are, it is not worth destruction of
21 the planet.

22 No matter that they are willing to allow

23

1 themselves to be exploited for short-term gain.
2 There's a jobs act in Congress right now that can
3 solve these problems. For those who are expressing
4 specific concerns for veterans, note that this jobs
5 plan specifically targets jobs for veterans in the
6 Obama plan.

7 To President Obama, I say do not sell our
8 national soul for the promise of short-term jobs
9 benefits. Listen to the environmental scientists,
10 who have issued the warning on global warming that is
11 sure to result. We cannot play the game until the
12 end. It is not often that you get the chance to
13 literally save the planet. Do it now. Deny
14 authority for the Keystone XL pipeline.

15 MR. MAGGIO: What is your affiliation,
16 ma'am?

17 MS. CRUMPTON: I'm a private citizen.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
20 Number 135, please.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: 136. Thank you.

23

1 MS. WICCE: Hello. My name is Kunda, K-U-
2 N-D-A, Wicce, W-I-C-C-E, and I guess I'm representing
3 earth. My first comment is I really would, I don't -
4 - when people push me out of the way at a food bar
5 and get twice as much food and I haven't had any yet,
6 I really don't appreciate that, and I don't
7 appreciate that some people have spoken here who
8 already spoke at a different hearing.

9 I have a message from the Blackfoot and
10 Cree indigenous peoples, who live in and hunt in the
11 boreal forest in Canada. They would like you to know
12 that they no longer die of old age. They die of
13 accidents and cancers. The animals that they live on
14 in subsistence hunting, when they cut them open they
15 find sores. The water that the animals drink is
16 poisoned from these tar sands oil extraction
17 processes.

18 While I was in D.C. a little while back, I
19 went to the American Indian Museum. I went up to the
20 fourth floor to begin the tour and found that the
21 entire floor was filled with exhibits of indigenous
22 people speaking to us. They knew that what they were
23

1 saying was going to be shown in this museum to
2 Americans, and they said we are the harbinger of
3 what's coming.

4 We want you to know that we're feeling it
5 already. Our streams are drying up, our water
6 sources are drying up, and we no longer can rely on
7 our traditional agricultural crops. What's happening
8 to us is going to happen to all of us. We want you
9 to know this.

10 They use fractured natural gas and three to
11 five gallons of fresh water to produce tar sands oil
12 that can flow in the pipelines. Fract gas from Fort
13 Worth perhaps, where they're drilling in people's
14 backyards and the cancer rates are going up. Then
15 they take it to places like refineries in
16 Pennsylvania, and when the chief engineer was asked
17 how much natural gas do you recover from that
18 process, he said "I don't know. We burn it off."

19 That's the monster we're dealing with, the
20 insanity of it. I wonder how many people here would
21 be actually willing to pull that switch that released
22 the dioxin into that lake that gentleman was talking

23

1 about? I wouldn't count on the benefits lasting very
2 long from that job. I plead with you to withdraw
3 your EIS. It is, it needs a lot more whitewash on
4 it.

5 MR. MAGGIO: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Number 137, please. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. ORR: Hello. My name is Sam Orr.
10 That's S-A-M, O-R-R. To begin with, I'd just like to
11 say that the folks that are proposing to put in this
12 pipeline to carry this dirty tar sands oil right
13 across the entire continental United States are not
14 very nice people.

15 These are some of the same folks who
16 routinely gassed the American public for many years,
17 without any regard for the terrible toll and strain
18 that they have put on the American economy, even
19 during these tough times. So they sure as heck don't
20 deserve any kind of benefit from any kind of a doubt.
21 They pretty well established that.

22 For instance, when they tell us that
23

1 there's nothing to worry about, that this 1,700 mile
2 monstrosity will be completely safe, we should not
3 believe them. We already know that a similar
4 pipeline to this one in Oklahoma has leaked 12 times
5 in the last year of its young life, and that's just
6 the times that we've heard about.

7 And we heard just yesterday on the news
8 that a pipeline in the Middle East had been targeted
9 for terrorism at least six times. Once again, those
10 are only the times that we know about. I'm assuming
11 that these nice folks intend to use our vital and
12 valuable right-of-ways to put this ugly snake filled
13 with dirty tar sands oil right across the continental
14 United States, right across our state for free. We
15 should tell these people our state is not for sale
16 for these purposes.

17 Of course, this 1,700 mile snake filled
18 with dirty tar sands oil will put numerous lakes,
19 streams, rivers, aquifers and other vital water
20 supplies in serious jeopardy. Once these resources
21 have been polluted, they're ruined forever. There is
22 no going back. So it's just not worth it.

23

1 The interests of a few greedy people
2 cannot be put above the health, safety and the way of
3 life of the public at large. This proposed
4 monstrosity would reach all the way to the Gulf,
5 where it would have a tremendous potential to ruin
6 the lives and the economy of hundreds of thousands of
7 people there.

8 So not only would this dirty tar sands oil
9 not benefit the American economy in any way, since
10 it's not intended to be sold here in America, but it
11 could ruin the lives and the livelihoods of hundreds
12 of thousands of people all along the way. We need a
13 pipeline here in Texas, but it sure as heck doesn't
14 need to be a pipeline coming south with dirty tar
15 sands oil.

16 We need a pipeline coming north with water
17 desalinized from the Gulf of Mexico. By doing this,
18 we could create hundreds of thousands of permanent,
19 great-paying jobs for folks right here in our state,
20 by making it possible for landowners, large and small
21 --

22 MR. MAGGIO: Thank you very much, sir.

23

1 MR. ORR: Thank you so much.

2 MR. MAGGIO: What is your affiliation, by
3 the way?

4 MR. ORR: I represent myself.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you very
7 much. Number 138, please.

8 MS. LIPPMAN: Good evening. My name is
9 Susan Lippman, L-I-P-P-M-A-N, and I'm just
10 representing myself.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

12 MS. LIPPMAN: I thank you for coming to
13 Texas and listening to us all so patiently, with
14 great attention. I have one 18 year-old daughter,
15 but even if I were childless, I would care about the
16 legacy that our generation is leaving for the next
17 ones. We've heard a lot tonight already about jobs
18 and safety. But even if the pipeline works
19 perfectly, it still creates a disaster.

20 The gentleman from the Railroad Commission
21 came in. He said let's look at some numbers, and
22 indeed, those are very sobering numbers. But I have
23

1 some too. The EPA says that tar sands oil are 82
2 percent more carbon-intensive than conventional
3 sources. I've also heard in other figures that it's
4 about three times more carbon-intensive than Texas
5 crude.

6 So these numbers that I'm going to supply
7 from Dr. James Hansen, who's been mentioned a lot
8 tonight, but I wanted to get into his details,
9 because they're important. He's the Director of
10 NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and he's
11 a leading scientist for climate change.

12 He says the exploitation of the tar sands
13 would make it implausible to stabilize climate and
14 avoid disastrous climate impacts. The tar sands are
15 estimated to contain at least 400 giga-tons of
16 carbon, equivalent to about 200 parts per million of
17 CO₂. When I stop for some perspective there, many
18 organizations are saying that we should back them out
19 of carbon into air that's in there now. It's 380 or
20 something like that. We should back it down to 350,
21 to have a sustainable fingering on the climate, and
22 it would still be higher than it was before the

23

1 Industrial Revolution.

2 So we're talking about raising it 200
3 parts per million. The easily available reserves of
4 conventional oil and gas are enough by themselves to
5 take atmospheric CO2 well above 400 parts per
6 million, which is unsafe for life on earth. If
7 emissions from coal are phased out over the next few
8 decades, and if unconventional fossil fuels,
9 including tar sands are left in the ground, it is
10 conceivable to stabilize earth's climate.

11 But as you can imagine, phase out of
12 emissions from coal is itself an enormous challenge.
13 However, he said if the tar sands are thrown into the
14 mix, it is essentially game over. So those are the
15 numbers, and my conclusions, financially speaking,
16 are that global climate change disaster is really
17 expensive, and that there are cheaper ways to create
18 7,000 jobs. Thanks.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
21 opinions. Number 139, please.

22 (No response.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: 140. Thank you.

2 MR. PRICE: Thank for other opportunity to
3 give my views in support for the Keystone XL
4 pipeline. My name is Michael Price, M-I-C-H-A-E-L,
5 P-R-I-C-E. I'm the Executive Director of the Texas
6 Coalition for Consumer Choice.

7 I'm also senior pastor at the Gates of
8 Dominion Word Ministry International here in Austin,
9 Texas, and a bishop of International Ministries,
10 which is a growing global network of ministries and
11 churches.

12 The Texas Coalition for Consumer Choice is
13 a non-profit organization, devoted to promoting
14 personal responsibility, protecting consumer choice
15 and enhancing the economic strength of individuals
16 and communities. TC3 has over 60,000 virtual members
17 in Texas. I've talked to many people in all walks of
18 life, and one of the greatest blessings is when
19 someone has a job and can maintain their dignity
20 through the income that a job provides.

21 Everyone needs an income, the ability to
22 pay their bills, and we know that our modern society

23

1 has evolved to the point that many things are now
2 becoming essential. In Texas, air conditioning is
3 essential, transportation is essential,
4 communications are essential. If people have jobs
5 and can afford these essentials, this places less
6 stress on their home life, their families and their
7 productivity.

8 The Keystone XL pipeline is a pipeline of
9 opportunities, which includes jobs, income and
10 wealth. We know that our local communities and
11 society in general runs on petroleum, and with
12 petroleum, we're going to have air conditioning,
13 jobs, income, transportation, communications and the
14 power to get well. Petroleum is one of the
15 necessary, commercially important elements which
16 makes our society operate.

17 The pipeline does not run through Austin,
18 Texas, but nonetheless it is important. It feeds
19 those refineries down on the Gulf Coast and the more
20 crude they have available and the greater the supply,
21 the less a gallon of gasoline sells for. Yea! When
22 gas is selling for \$4 to \$5 a gallon, it has a

1 disproportionate impact on those in society who have
2 much less to begin with.

3 When money has to go for the essentials,
4 like transportation costs, then that puts air
5 conditioning, communications and yes sometimes even
6 basic needs like shelter, food and clothing at risk.
7 Today, I've heard others speak about the jobs we will
8 create from building the pipeline for the people in
9 Port Arthur, and that's great, and I support that.

10 However, today, I'm also here to talk
11 about the people who need this pipeline to keep gas
12 prices low. Even a few hundred dollars in savings on
13 gas can make an immeasurable difference for a family
14 already living from paycheck to paycheck.

15 So let's give hard-working Texans a shot
16 at the American dream, which includes the promise of
17 the possibility of prosperity and success, and
18 instead of working to eliminate important, often
19 lower-cost options, we urge you to look for ways to
20 lower gas prices, to expand essential jobs, savings
21 and income opportunities for hard-working Texas.

22 We believe that the Keystone pipeline will
23

1 help life to be better, richer and fuller for
2 everyone, and I brought my own Amen corner just in
3 case no one else agrees with me. So thank you for
4 the opportunity to share our views. Let's build this
5 pipeline.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Number 141,
8 please. Thank you.

9 MR. McMASTER: Hi. My name is Douglas
10 McMaster. I'm a junior in the Petroleum Engineering
11 School here at the University of Texas at Austin.
12 I'm also an active member in SBE.

13 MR. MAGGIO: What is your last name again
14 sir?

15 MR. McMASTER: M-C, Master. Okay. It is
16 important to understand that our planet's population
17 is growing at an alarming rate. Governments of
18 countries like India, Brazil and China are being
19 challenged for providing an infrastructure for their
20 citizens. These citizens, like us, want education,
21 want access to health care, want better communication
22 that works and they want a higher standard of living.

23

1 All of this relies on electricity or
2 energy, or, in this case, oil. To deny them a better
3 quality of life is un-American. Still, their
4 governments are being tasked with providing these
5 services and energies. Where will this energy come
6 from? In the near future, they won't have the luxury
7 of exporting oil to countries like us. They will
8 have to keep it for their people.

9 The security of external energy resources
10 like oil are at stake. It is only fair that
11 countries get to use and keep the resources that lie
12 within their own country. Demand for energy across
13 the world is increasing. We need resources from
14 friendly countries like Canada, whose population is
15 approaching 35 million, but pales in comparison to
16 the size of resources that they contain.

17 They can and are willing to share these
18 resources. To deny this politically safe and
19 reliable resource can be similar to risking the
20 safety and welfare of our country.

21 The Keystone pipeline will help provide
22 and replace, I repeat replace risky energy resources

23

1 from unsafe political entities. This pipeline will
2 provide a consistent energy resource for the future.
3 This pipeline will benefit the American and Canadian
4 economies, American and Canadian people, and the
5 future of our American and Canadian generations.

6 As an American and Canadian citizen, I
7 advise you to build the Keystone pipeline. Thank
8 you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your voice.
11 142, please.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: 143.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: 144.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: 145.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: 146.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: 147. Thank you.

22 MS. HO-SHING: Yes, I was at Port Arthur.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: You're 147, are you?

2 MS. HO-SHING: Yes.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Go ahead.

4 MS. HO-SHING: Hello. My name is Jackie
5 Ho-Shing or Jacqueline. Jackie is quicker, so J-A-C-
6 K-I-E, Ho-Shing, H-O, hyphen, S-H-I-N-G. I'm from
7 McAllen, Texas, and I'm here in support for all those
8 against the pipeline. I'm Hispanic and I was born
9 and raised on the border of Texas, where I witnessed
10 firsthand many neighbors and family members living
11 way below the poverty line, living paycheck to
12 paycheck, barely able to feed their family and give
13 them a stable home.

14 Living in front-line communities,
15 especially in areas with oil refineries, made living
16 below the poverty line even worse. Many of the
17 communities, 56 percent of them, had cancer, which
18 is, if we look at this room, if half of the people
19 left, half or like a little bit more, that would be
20 all the people who had died of cancer in a couple of
21 years, because of oil refineries.

22 There is an increase of asthma and

23

1 respiratory illnesses also. These are not just
2 statistics you can just shove away and forget about
3 it for later. These statistics are about people whom
4 I care about.

5 My brother, who had his first asthma
6 attack when he was visiting Houston when he was six,
7 and all my close friends and family living in the
8 greater Houston-Port Arthur area, have already felt
9 the environmental impact of dirty oil.

10 This is why, as a child of immigrants and
11 a child of Mother Earth, we must say no to the
12 Keystone XL pipeline and yes to clean energy and a
13 healthy future. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
16 comments. 148, please.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 149.

19 MS. KAISER: Good evening. My name is
20 MaryAnn Kaiser. It's K-A-I-S-E-R, and I'm a third
21 year Master of Divinity student at Austin
22 Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I am a Christian

23

1 dedicated to exploring God's love for all of
2 creation, and as a member of Texas Interfaith Power
3 and Light, and as a hospital chaplain, I am strongly
4 opposed to the Keystone pipeline.

5 Thank you for this opportunity to share my
6 religious perspective today. My analysis of the
7 Keystone project as intrinsically immoral is grounded
8 in the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ. His
9 words remind us that only second to our love for God,
10 loving our neighbor is the most important command of
11 the Christian faith.

12 When his followers questioned who was
13 included in this word "neighbor," Jesus' words and
14 life stretched the boundaries to include not just the
15 immediate and the obvious, but the overlooked, the
16 objectified and the dismissed.

17 This means that when we read the official
18 executive summary produced by the Bureau of Oceans
19 and International Environmental and Scientific
20 Affairs, which offers the projected environmental
21 impacts of the Keystone project, we cannot remain
22 apathetic to the harm that will be caused to our
23

1 neighbors, the overlooked people, the objectified
2 creation and the dismissed animals.

3 When we read that the pipeline is expected
4 to cause competition for social services in under-
5 served populations, and reduced availability of
6 transient housing, Jesus' words echo to us, "Love thy
7 neighbor." When we are told that it will cause soil
8 erosion, soil contamination and the reduction of
9 ground water quality, Jesus' words echo "Love thy
10 neighbor."

11 When we think about the decades it will
12 take to re-establish the Texas bottomland hardwood
13 wetlands, or the permanent damage that will be caused
14 to native forest, Jesus' words echo, "Love thy
15 neighbor." When we imagine the animals who will
16 struggle from habitat loss, reduced breeding success,
17 death by construction, stress or lack of food, Jesus'
18 words echo "Love thy neighbor."

19 It is easy to look at the short-term
20 profits that will be made by investing in the
21 Keystone pipeline. But the good that can come of it
22 pales in comparison to the harm it will cause the

23

1 earth, people and many creatures. In order to remain
2 faithful to Christ, the Christian faith, to the
3 overlooked, objectified and dismissed, we must love
4 our neighbor by saying no to the Keystone pipeline.
5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
8 Number 150, please. 150 are you?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. EVERETT: No, 151.

11 MS. COLEMAN: 151. Thank you.

12 MS. EVERETT: Hello. My name is Amelia
13 Everett, which is E-V-E-R-E-T-T, and I am a student
14 from Texas A&M Corpus Christi Environmental Science
15 student, president of the Student Environmental
16 Action League, and I'm here just to represent a lot
17 of students at Corpus Christi, that we are already
18 tired of the effects we see from the refineries we
19 have here already in Corpus Christi. We see people
20 having their kids with asthma. The soil is so bad
21 that they can't even plant crops or like a garden for
22 their own house.

23

1 You know, it's just the babies are being
2 born with defects, and even with their intestines
3 outside their body. So just having the tar sands
4 come down through Corpus, it's just going to be a lot
5 worse for our cities. I know to y'all, y'all are up,
6 way up north, so it doesn't affect you.

7 But it affects us, and I hate for people
8 in my city to suffer. It just, there's other ways we
9 can create jobs. It's very obvious with that, and
10 that's what I'd like to say. You know, it's just, we
11 just really appreciate for y'all coming down here to
12 talk, because I personally would like to hear y'all's
13 opinions, and I've learned a lot from y'all today.

14 But I still stand in my belief against the
15 pipeline, and I would like to see maybe TCEQ or the
16 EPA try to figure out a way to protect the citizens
17 that are living against the pipeline, to warn them
18 about a possible leak or a blowout or something,
19 because the refineries that we have here now, they
20 don't warn them when it's going to blow. That's not
21 very good for human health.

22 From what I've been learning from

23

1 environmental law and regulations, they should always
2 put human health first. I believe that should be one
3 of the top priorities of this pipeline if it does go
4 through, because when you think ahead, like if it
5 does go through, we need to be prepared on how to
6 train your workers, how to prepare for that.

7 Like if it does spill, you know, just let
8 them know how to handle a spill, how to warn people
9 and how to protect the environment, maybe some water
10 quality monitoring or air quality monitoring, just to
11 see the effects of it after we build it. I would not
12 like to see them build it. But if it does, I want to
13 be prepared for a leak. That's all.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
16 comments. I appreciate it. Number 152, please.

17 MR. ROYAL: My name's Steve Royal, R-O-Y-
18 A-L. Folks, you've got to wake up. The beginning of
19 the United States was when they overthrew the king's
20 corporations. They got rid of them. That's what
21 screwed the whole place up, you know, sovereignties.

22 These corporations are running around,

23

1 they don't care about the United States of America.

2 They could care less. Are you kidding me? And they

3 want to put labor against who? I mean come on.

4 We're all in the same boat.

5 They don't care what happens to us. They

6 don't care if we live or we die. All they care is

7 about the money that's attached to not even the gold

8 standard, not the silver standard, nothing. Occupy

9 Wall Street. You think, okay turn me down. I can

10 talk without the damn thing. Occupy Wall Street.

11 They've cornered the oil market. That's

12 why the gas went to \$5 a gallon. There is no such

13 thing as oil supply and demand anymore. It doesn't

14 exist. Yeah, it doesn't exist. You've got to wake

15 up, folks. This is where the corporations have taken

16 over. They don't care about us.

17 Hey, Rockefeller had the workers in the

18 mines living in cardboard boxes. They were dropping

19 bombs on the labor movement. Are you kidding me?

20 Wake up. This has got to stop. The Supreme Court

21 says there are people. They don't breathe. It's a

22 legal fiction. Just like insurance, a fic-tion, a

23

1 fiction. Wake up.

2 This is about the United States of America
3 being taken over by the corporations. They don't
4 care how much they screw us up. They don't care
5 anything about having us have our health. They want
6 to take our education away. People that are
7 informed, that are critically informed, they don't
8 want us around. They don't want us around anywhere.
9 It's not in their interest.

10 XL Pipeline is just a symptom of the
11 corporations running crazy, just running crazy. They
12 want to export the stuff out of Port Arthur. What
13 happened with that barge that was in Port Arthur.
14 Occupy Wall Street. Occupy Dallas. It starts on
15 October 6th.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. 153, please.

18 153.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 154. 154 coming down?

21 Thank you. As we're beginning, again if your number
22 is coming up, please come down, so we can keep as

23

1 many people with the opportunity to speak. Okay,
2 please 154.

3 MR. NEK: Hi. I'm Retazza Nek, last name
4 N-E-K, and I come from Houston. I'm actually here to
5 speak about some of the new information I've learned
6 in the last few days. I was actually at the Port
7 Arthur hearing. I spoke with John Bolenbaugh, who
8 spoke earlier, and I learned about some of the things
9 that he's been uncovering.

10 Some of the things he's been discovering
11 in his area in Michigan, and I mean, he presents
12 evidence. He doesn't really want me to trust him.
13 He actually presents his own evidence on YouTube. So
14 I encourage everyone to go visit his information on
15 YouTube, because it stands on its own two feet.

16 He was talking about the different cover-
17 up methods of Enbridge. When they have leaks, in
18 some cases they clean up their spills, but in other
19 cases, they actually -- you know, either they can't
20 clean it up or they actually tell their workers to
21 cover the spills, and they actually do this in
22 certain ways that he proves in his video.

23

1 I mean again, just go to the YouTube
2 website. Go to his video and just see what he's
3 demonstrated. He's demonstrated that oil is being
4 covered, that oil is drawn to the ground because it
5 has a higher viscosity. It just sinks in the water,
6 and it's covered with layers of sand that people can
7 actually discover themselves just by scooping in and
8 digging in deep enough to actually see the oil still
9 there.

10 So there's a literal cover-up. So there's
11 like a metaphorical cover-up, in the sense that
12 people are being asked to like stay quiet about it,
13 and there's a literal cover-up in the sense that
14 grasslands are laid over land and sediments are laid
15 over sea. Now the problem with this, the really
16 serious problem with this, is that we're dealing with
17 tar sands, which is bitumen, which has a lot of
18 different dangerous chemicals in it.

19 That's not, I mean it's a lot more
20 dangerous than regular oil. The outcome of this is
21 that a lot of health effects are actually seen a lot
22 more quickly than would be seen for other types, with
23

1 regular crude oil. Now this is Enbridge, but it
2 gives us a huge lesson about what we can expect if an
3 oil leak were to occur, even if they clean up as
4 quickly as possible.

5 What we know we can expect is that there
6 are a lot of dangers. Of course, there's always the
7 risk that the clean-up might not be done adequately
8 enough, and if it's not done adequately enough, it's
9 going to pose a huge danger to a lot of people who
10 live in the area.

11 We've already seen a lot of people are
12 getting sick in Michigan and in other states. So we
13 know that we can expect that if a leak were to occur
14 in Texas. We know to expect that kind of thing
15 happening here. So I encourage you all to anticipate
16 the likelihood of a spill.

17 I mean it's very likely, because tar sands
18 are a lot more corrosive than regular oil, and
19 because they're pumping it at higher temperatures and
20 higher pressures. So thank you. I discourage the
21 pipeline.

22 (Applause.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. 155,
2 please. Thank you.

3 MR. COGGINS: Good evening. My name is
4 Phillip Coggins. I'm an Environmental Science and
5 Policy major at St. Edwards University. I'm 26.
6 Like other individuals that have spoken here today, I
7 too am a person who has made the choice to further my
8 education and to return to academia.

9 Originally, I studied Sound Technology and
10 Commercial Music in Levelland, Texas, and from 2007
11 to 2010, I traveled across this country, playing over
12 300 shows a year, entertaining audiences and building
13 cherished relationships with thousands of
14 individuals, that will continue to last until the day
15 that I die.

16 This experience gave me two benefits.
17 One, it taught me the importance of symbiotic
18 relationships in life, and two, it showed me a
19 glimpse of this country that very few individuals
20 will ever see. Our music crossed boundaries between
21 subculture, big money, varying political
22 affiliations, businessmen, families, youth and hard-
23

1 working Americans.

2 I have learned a lot of disturbing facts
3 related to oil. Indeed, as a native Texan and
4 environmentalist, some of my very good friends worked
5 for oil companies in Midland and Odessa. Some of the
6 implications that I've learned from these individuals
7 on the contamination of petroleum and the vast
8 majority of America's ground supply, about the dirt
9 and the ground water that subsequently goes into your
10 drinking water.

11 Essentially every single one of you in
12 this room, if you ever drink water from a tap source,
13 you are ingesting elements of petroleum. This has
14 been due to cars, this has been due to multiple
15 facts. But most of it is related to very unclean and
16 unsafe practices of drilling.

17 In May, I had a conversation with an
18 individual who was sent home from a site, simply for
19 following a protocol in relation to environmental
20 practices that his site conducts or lacks to conduct,
21 because the protocols, according to the
22 administration, were too costly to actually

23

1 implement. We have seen other examples of this lack
2 of responsibility in situations like the BP Gulf
3 spill.

4 Most of the proponents of this pipeline
5 have supported it because of the urgent need for job
6 security. This security is necessary for a myriad of
7 things. For many, it's related to being able to
8 provide for the families, for their future.

9 But I urge all of you to consider when
10 there is an environmental catastrophe that happens
11 due to this pipeline, and indeed we have seen the
12 warning signs of this in Yellowstone and the Gulf,
13 you will not leave an environment for your children
14 to inherit. There won't be a future.

15 With lots of petroleum contamination, the
16 idea of making money should become obsolete. How
17 good will wealth be if there is not a planet to use
18 that wealth on.

19 MR. MAGGIO: Thank you very much, sir.

20 MR. COGGINS: I'm in opposition. Thank
21 you very much.

22 (Applause.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Number 156, please. 156.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: 157.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: 158.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: 159. Thank you.

8 MR. WICKS: Hi. My name is Sean Wicks, S-
9 E-A-N, W-I-C-K-S. I'm a junior Geography major at
10 the University of Texas. I'm here to speak against
11 the tar sands pipeline.

12 MR. MAGGIO: Could you repeat your name
13 again? I'm sorry.

14 MR. WICKS: Sorry. I'm Sean Wicks, S-E-A-
15 N, W-I-C-K-S. This proposed pipeline is going to run
16 through the Ogallala aquifer, which a fun fact for
17 you guys, it is the largest aquifer in our country.
18 It runs from South Dakota to Texas, and the country
19 or the states that it runs through get the majority
20 of their water from this aquifer.

21 A leak into the aquifer would be
22 catastrophic, and people are saying there's no chance
23

1 of a leak. But the original Keystone pipeline leaked
2 12 times in its first year. A leak into this aquifer
3 would ruin the water, and we do not have the
4 technology to clean up that water yet. We would just
5 have to pump more water in to clean it up.

6 If this drought in Texas has taught us
7 anything, we should know that water is just as
8 valuable a resource as oil. The tar sands oil is the
9 dirtiest form of oil. It emits four times as much
10 carbon dioxide as the light crude oils that we
11 currently use. In our country, American demand for
12 oil is currently going down, so why would we ever
13 invest in the dirtiest energy source out there?

14 In closing, I just want to say that I
15 don't want to look back on this day with regret,
16 knowing that we could have not just saved the
17 climate, but we could have saved American lives by
18 saying no to this pipeline. So please make the right
19 decision and turn down this pipeline. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.

22 160, please, number 160.

23

1 (No response.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Number 161. 161, okay.

3 MS. MARTEL: Hi there. My name is Kendal
4 Martel, K-E-N-D-A-L, M-A-R-T-E-L.

5 MR. MAGGIO: And your affiliation?

6 MS. MARTEL: I'm the president of the
7 Sierra Student Coalition at Stephen F. Austin State
8 University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Well, let me start
9 off by saying I spoke to you guys on Monday. But
10 just to reiterate, for those of you that weren't
11 there, I was born in Beaumont, Texas.

12 I'm a native of Southeast Texas and East
13 Texas. Moved around most of my life, and so whenever
14 I found out that this pipeline was going to come
15 directly through all the places that I've lived,
16 where I grew up hunting and fishing in the Angelina
17 River and the Piney Woods, staying out in the woods
18 and playing out there with my grandparents and with
19 my dad, you know, that really saddened me.

20 So there's more things that really upset
21 me about this pipeline, though, and I'd like to
22 discuss some of those. First of all, the jobs. You
23

1 guys are here because you're hard-working people, and
2 you're just trying to put food on the table, and I
3 can definitely understand that.

4 My parents worked really hard to get where
5 they are now. I personally worked two jobs, so I
6 know how important work ethic is. However, I've done
7 a lot of fact-checking and a lot of digging, and
8 according to numerous documents that were released by
9 the Department of State and TransCanada, those job
10 projections, they're over-projected by 49,000
11 approximately, okay.

12 And to see hard-working people being lied
13 to about that, just because jobs is a sensitive
14 subject right now. But that's where you really have
15 to pay attention. Whenever there's a sensitive
16 subject going on in America, and some problematic
17 issues, that's where we really have to pay attention,
18 because that's where the powerful people are most
19 likely to take advantage of the hard-working people,
20 and we have to remember that.

21 Also, there's a misconception that this is
22 going to get us all foreign oil. Some of the main

23

1 people that are shippers, one in particular is
2 Motiva. It's a joint venture between Shell and
3 Aramco, which is a state-owned Saudi Arabian oil
4 company, okay. So right now, the demand is down in
5 the United States on the global oil market, and
6 therefore, they're going to make more money not
7 selling it to Americans.

8 We're just pawns right now, and if you do
9 fact-checking, like I said, and if you do digging,
10 you'll realize that this oil is not for us. It's so
11 the people in suits can buy more yachts, and so they
12 can make more money, and that's not right. That's
13 not American.

14 Also, somebody mentioned earlier, and this
15 made me really, really angry. They talked about
16 women in Saudi Arabia, okay. If somebody really
17 cared about human rights, then how about we talk
18 about the people at Fort Chipewyan, okay, at the end
19 of the Athabasca River, who are seeing more bile duct
20 cancers now than ever before. Actually, there were
21 none before they were at the end of the Athabasca
22 River, where the tailings ponds were flowing in,

23

1 okay.

2 That's not right. That's not human
3 rights. What about the women that are affected down
4 in Houston and Port Arthur and they had stillbirths,
5 and they have higher rates of birth defects in their
6 children? What about that? So --

7 MR. MAGGIO: Thank you very much.

8 MS. MARTEL: So I oppose this pipeline and
9 we all need to stick together.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
12 Number 161, please. 161.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: 162.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: 163.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 164.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 165.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: 166.

23

1 (No response.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: 167, please.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: 168. Okay, 168.

5 MS. PLONKA: Hello. I'm Jennifer Plonka,
6 J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R, P-L-O-N-K-A. I am unofficially
7 representing Code Pink, Women Against War, and NORML,
8 National Organization to Reform Marijuana Law. I am
9 a 99 percenter, just like everybody in this room.
10 This is my maternal and patriotic duty to occupy this
11 mic for three minutes.

12 We are gathered here today because I have
13 a pipe dream. The tar sands pipeline is a Trojan
14 horse for terrorism. It will connect to a refinery
15 on American soil owned by Saudi Arabia, and it will
16 create a product shipped off to China. This will all
17 come back to us as a toxic waste dump disguised as
18 play toys. It is 1,500 or 1,700 mile-long fuse going
19 to a carbon bomb the size of Florida.

20 Imagine tar sands pipeline meets fast drop
21 fire. This is a napalm scalpel that will divide this
22 country in half. We do not have the ability to stop

23

1 it from leaking into the aquifers, and we do not have
2 the ability to put out the fire. The collateral
3 damage is ours. Dispersants will not cover this up.

4 Tar sands pipeline is the last straw. The
5 oil business is founded on death, from the dodo birds
6 to the whales, oiled down for train oil. If you work
7 for this business, then you are a puppet to genocide.
8 The owners have only one unashamed priority, and that
9 is to have as much money and power as possible, right
10 up to the end of human existence.

11 Causes need to join forces. Canada's
12 prohibition needs to end immediately for industrial,
13 medical and recreational use. Decriminalize and
14 control it like alcohol, because it is a
15 neuroprotectant. A Swedish University has released a
16 study confirming Jack Herer's marijuana biomass
17 energy plant is legitimate, and the solution for
18 organic power is right under our noses. That is why
19 marijuana is illegal.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, could you please
21 address the issue of the day here please?

22 MS. PLONKA: This is a solution to our

23

1 energy problem. Hemp, industrial hemp provides oil,
2 and university study shows that it can provide enough
3 energy for the world. If it was -- if prohibition
4 ended, then our universities could prove that. But
5 we have to depend on foreign universities, who have
6 the right to study it.

7 Henry Ford built a fleet of 40 cars that
8 were made from hemp fibers and ran on hemp fuel. He
9 was in direct competition with Rockefeller and DuPont
10 to supply chemicals and energy. That is when
11 Anslinger stepped in with brainwashing propaganda and
12 designed the racist incarceration complex that
13 flourishes in this country. This is --

14 MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, this is not
15 addressing the issue of today. Thank you for your
16 comments.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Number 169.
19 Number 169.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: 170.

22 MR. SIMMS: Good evening.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Good evening.

2 MR. SIMMS: Howard Simms, S-I-M-M-S, and
3 I'm a fifth generation Texan, and I'm speaking for
4 myself. I have a background in science, biology,
5 biochemistry and chemistry, and my family has been in
6 oil and cattle for a long time.

7 I've been aware of the Athabasca tar sands
8 since 1978. They've been figuring out all that time
9 what to do with them, and they finally figured out
10 that they're going to ship them to us in a pipeline.
11 I was surprised to find that the Department of State
12 was producing the environmental impact statement. I
13 was then astonished to find out that they concluded
14 that there was going to be no effect on the
15 environment.

16 I understand that those who wrote the
17 report were constrained to give an expected positive
18 answer, supportive to our good Canadian neighbor.
19 But basically, the report and its conclusions are
20 dishonest, and by that, I mean that the report
21 chooses the best case scenario whenever that helps
22 its case, and chooses the worst case scenario,
23

1 whenever that helps its case.

2 It magnifies the problems of Saudi Arabian
3 sour, magnifies the conflict with Venezuela,
4 magnifies the jobs that will be created, magnifies
5 the crude shortages that might appear. TransCanada
6 is given the benefit of every doubt, and when we find
7 out about problems up in Alberta with tailings ponds,
8 we don't actually -- that seems to have been put
9 outside the parameters of the environmental impact
10 statement.

11 We have a pipeline that will carry a very
12 dirty tar product that cannot safely be transported
13 through a pipeline, and it's going to produce
14 environmental damage in Canada and along the Gulf
15 Coast, and about the only way to avoid that is if a
16 large asteroid hits the earth before that happens.

17 The negatives of the project are real and
18 well-established. The positives are speculative and
19 theoretical. There may be a time, 40, 50 or 100
20 years from now, when this TransCanada pipeline makes
21 sense.

22 MR. MAGGIO: Thank you sir, very much.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Number 171,
3 please.

4 MS. OLDHAM: Good evening. My name is
5 Melanie Oldham, O-L-D-H-A-M, and I'm here to oppose
6 the Keystone XL tar sand pipeline for a very serious
7 reason. Let me tell you why. Spent catalyst, and
8 I've been a health care professional 29 years, an
9 unpaid public health advocate in Texas since '03, and
10 a resident of Brazoria County directly south of
11 Houston.

12 Some people in Texas believe that we must
13 have dirty jobs, jobs, jobs, any kind of jobs at all
14 cost, which is often our health, quality of life of
15 families in Texas. I'm from Brazoria County near
16 Houston, and my state rep is Dennis Bonnen for 16
17 years. He was chairman of the Environmental Reg
18 Committee for three long sessions.

19 Mr. Bonnen brags about our jobs in
20 Brazoria County, but he forgets to mention that our
21 county is the number four county in the U.S. for
22 release of carcinogens in air and water. Brazoria
23

1 County has three cancers higher than to be expected,
2 lung cancer in men, non-Hodgkins lymphoma in women,
3 and both types of cancer in children.

4 One issue I haven't heard discussed is
5 where would they send all the dirty, spent catalyst
6 from the dirty tar sand refinery? In Brazoria
7 County, we have Gulf Chemical and Metallurgical, the
8 world's largest recycler of spent catalyst. They
9 have been in Brazoria County 34 years.

10 Recently, the Texas attorney general on
11 March 11 filed 77 air and water violations against
12 Gulf Chemical, and last week filed a temporary
13 injunction. I would think that any responsible oil
14 refinery in Houston, Texas, U.S. or the world would
15 be wondering about where do we send our spent
16 catalyst. Is there a responsible spent catalyst
17 recycler in Texas?

18 There are many, many sick people and low
19 income citizens in Freeport, Texas, where I am from.
20 But we have dirty jobs. Has the State Department and
21 EIS taken any consideration to what Texas would do
22 with additional spent catalyst, when they can't even
23

1 handle what we have from refining oil?

2 Also, there are many details like this for
3 the State Department to take a closer look. I
4 greatly respect our president and the State
5 Department, but there are many other crucial details
6 and public health consequences to look at again. We
7 don't need jobs, jobs, jobs. We need jobs and good
8 health.

9 Do the right thing and say no to the
10 Keystone tar sands pipeline. It is not in the best
11 interest of Brazoria County, Houston, Texas or our
12 national interest. There are many other ways to
13 increase jobs that don't make others suffer and die.
14 Please listen and say no to this pipeline. Thank
15 you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your thoughts.
18 Number 172, please. 172.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 173.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: 174.

23

1 (No response.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: 175. Okay, thank you.

3 MS. MACIAS: My name is Sarah Macias, S-A-
4 R-A-H, M-A-C-I-A-S. My first career was with park
5 management before retiring, and currently, I'm a
6 student at Austin Presbyterian Seminary and serve
7 with the Interfaith Environmental Network. Thank you
8 for this opportunity to provide input into this
9 review process. I hope and pray that it is not a
10 done deal. I hope that the State Department truly is
11 in a season of review and discernment on the merits,
12 both ecologically and economically, of this proposed
13 pipeline.

14 Obviously, if it's already a done deal,
15 then there's a lot of us, including yourselves,
16 wasting your time. So first off, I want to say how
17 appreciative I am of your commitment in sorting
18 through the facts, while being sensitive to all of
19 the conflicting emotions in this decision.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

21 MS. MACIAS: There is no doubt that we
22 need jobs. The unemployment figures and the lives

23

1 and families affected by them is a very real concern.
2 We can all agree on that. There is a common sense
3 principle, though, that I think we can all agree on
4 as well, and I will say it slowly.

5 Sustainable practices result in a
6 sustainable economy. This is so basic. Take care of
7 the earth and the earth will take care of you. How
8 long? As long as we want. Till it and keep it.
9 Give it what it needs and it will give back. This is
10 not idealistic; it is realistic. In fact, it is
11 critical to the health of the planet, to human and
12 non-human creatures, and to our economy.

13 The proposed Keystone XL pipeline is not
14 founded on sustainable practices. Yes, I know they
15 will have safety measures, but ask the human and the
16 non-human members of the ecosystem of the Gulf about
17 safety measures.

18 It only takes one accident, and it will
19 happen, and the long-term effects from the emissions
20 associated with this particular type of extraction of
21 our natural resources is alarming.

22 Let's use this as a moment to realign
23

1 ourselves properly with God's good creation, of which
2 we are a part. Let's open our eyes to the fact that
3 clean, sustainable practices are the better and
4 really the only option for long-term health of our
5 economy, our children and our earth.

6 When options for job creation involve
7 using up or sucking dry the very resources that the
8 jobs rely on, then it's not going to last forever.
9 It's not a sustainable practice. Jobs from renewable
10 energy sources are sustainable. They last.

11 As human beings, we have great capacity
12 for wisdom and great capacity for foolishness. We
13 can embrace or we can ignore our intended
14 relationship with the rest of creation. We have a
15 choice, and whatever the outcome, this will be a
16 defining moment for us all.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
19 comments. Number 176, please. Thank you.

20 MS. McAFEE: I'm Anne McAfee. I'm
21 speaking on behalf of myself.

22 MS. COLEMAN: Could you spell your name

23

1 quickly for us?

2 MS. McAFEE: Anne ends with an E. McAfee
3 is M-C, capitol A, one F and two E's.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

5 MS. McAFEE: My husband started out as a
6 printer at the age of 13 in Carson County, Texas in
7 the early 40's. After World War II, he came to
8 Austin to go to school here, and then he started his
9 own business after we were married. Then he
10 eventually built the business up to 145 people,
11 really actually more than that.

12 But he believed in union so strongly that
13 normally a printing business would have only three
14 unions represented. But in this case, he required
15 the secretary, the accountant and the delivery man to
16 all be members of a union, just because he believed
17 so strongly in unions.

18 I remember back during the Vietnam War,
19 when there were helicopters made by Bell Helicopter,
20 made in Fort Worth, were crashing because of some
21 problem with the design of the helicopters, and at
22 that time, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram wrote an

23

1 article, exposing the fact that it was all caused by
2 a design factor.

3 The union members of UAW went down to the
4 Fort Worth Star-Telegram and cancelled over 2,000 of
5 their subscriptions, just because they were concerned
6 about their jobs. I can understand being concerned
7 about your job, but remember that it's going to be
8 your children and your grandchildren who are going to
9 be affected by the health effects of what happens
10 with the tar sands.

11 There was a man here who spoke here
12 earlier, who was actually supporting the tar sands
13 thing, and he said that there were 11 oil spills by
14 TransCanada between just Canada and Illinois.

15 So you know, the fact of the matter is
16 that with the Ogallala aquifer goes all the way from
17 West Texas, the Texas Panhandle, all the way up to
18 Nebraska, and that is a major source of drinking
19 water for the whole country. At least a quarter of
20 all the people who live in this country get their
21 water supply from there. This pipeline crosses a big
22 portion of the Ogallala aquifer.

23

1 MR. MAGGIO: Ma'am, thank you very much.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Unfortunately, we're out of
3 time.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: Number 177, please. 177.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: 178.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: 179.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: 180.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: 181.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: 182. 182, okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SAVRANSKY: Hello. My name is
17 Alejandro Savransky. It's A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-O, last
18 name S-A-V-R-A-N-S-K-Y.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

20 MR. SAVRANSKY: And I'm from Austin. I've
21 lived in Austin for three years. I'm speaking for
22 myself. I'm opposed to the construction of the

23

1 pipeline, and I'll be brief. I wasn't born in this
2 country. I moved to the U.S. 12 years ago. I was
3 born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and coming here, I
4 feel very lucky to be a citizen of this country. I
5 think this is a beautiful country, and I'm very happy
6 to be a part of it.

7 Moving to the United States, I first moved
8 to Florida, where I saw such beauty, especially on
9 the coastlines. I remember I just wanted to go to
10 the beach every single day. Realizing what we were
11 doing to power our cars, and learning more about oil,
12 not only just the process itself but the fact that we
13 were putting huge straws into the middle of the ocean
14 to pump oil out, I thought it was just such a bad
15 idea.

16 I thought, you know, there have to be
17 better ways, better ways to power our cars, to live
18 our lives. Then I thought we have too much at stake.
19 We have such beautiful, beautiful places in this
20 country and we need to protect them.

21 Just as I thought, you know, that Florida
22 was beautiful, I think that it's an amazing place, a

23

1 beautiful place. I'm really proud to be here, and I
2 really want to make sure that we don't build this
3 huge pipeline in my backyard.

4 Because in the end, we only have one
5 coastline. We only have one Gulf Coast. We only
6 have one Ogallala aquifer, and we need to make sure
7 that it is protected. I urge the administration to
8 oppose the construction of this pipeline. I thank
9 you for the time.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views. I
12 appreciate it. 183, please.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: 184. Thank you.

15 MR. WYMAN: My name is Stephen Wyman. I
16 was informed -- oh, Stephen with a P-H, W-Y-M-A-N. I
17 was informed by Credo Mobile Action, Sierra Club,
18 Friends of the Earth, but mostly I speak for me. I
19 do not support the building of the Keystone XL
20 pipeline. The Keystone pipeline will pass through a
21 region in the central U.S. plains known as the Saudi
22 Arabia of wind.

23

1 The industry that wants the pipeline has
2 many, many smaller pipeline leaks every year
3 cumulatively, spilling large quantities of oil, gas
4 pipelines that leak and explode in neighborhoods,
5 tankers that rupture, spilling massive quantities of
6 oil, drilling platforms that explode, burn and sink,
7 spilling even more oil, pipelines that leak massively
8 into pristine environs and untold numbers of people
9 hurt and killed every year in the oil business, and
10 we find out only when it's a big enough spectacle for
11 the mass media.

12 Oil industry jobs increase when the price
13 of a barrel of oil is high, and people are laid off -
14 - in '86, they were laid off a building at a time
15 when the price went down below ten bucks a barrel.
16 In the late 1980's, the state of Texas had to cap
17 5,000 abandoned oil and gas wells. Imagine what
18 problems an abandoned pipeline could cause.

19 The tar sands could be processed much
20 closer to where they are mined. The benefits of
21 energy security for the USA are questionable when the
22 tar sands are refined in a free trade zone. There
23

1 are far better uses for the money and labor resources
2 that would go into constructing the tar sands
3 pipeline. Please don't approve the tar sands
4 Keystone XL pipeline.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
7 Number 185, please. 185, 186.

8 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm 185.

9 MS. COLEMAN: I'm sorry.

10 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
11 Department of State staff for hearing me. (Spanish)
12 My name is Donna Hoffman, two F's and one N. I'm
13 from Corpus Christi, one of Texas' three large
14 refinery communities.

15 Before she died of cancer, my grandmother,
16 who died in her 50's, was the Teacher of the Year at
17 Noor High School, across from I-37, where the
18 refineries are. So that's where I'm coming from on
19 this, and also I work for the Sierra Club.

20 I'm concerned about three things, the air
21 that we breathe, the water we drink, our health and
22 our lives. Without these things, there's no life.

23

1 So I'm asking President Obama, Secretary of State
2 Hillary Clinton and all staff who are members of the
3 State Department, to deny a permit to TransCanada
4 Keystone pipeline.

5 We're living in a climate -- we're in a
6 climate crisis in Texas. I'm very proud of the Texas
7 A&M scientists, Dressler, North and Shada, and the UT
8 scientists, Camille Parmazon, for confirming the
9 Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change findings
10 that global warming is happening. They told us that
11 the ice caps are melting, the sea levels are rising,
12 and there is extreme weather.

13 But we don't need these scientists to
14 confirm what our own senses are telling us, and what
15 that is is we're breathing dust. There are extremely
16 hot days. People's wells are running dry. People
17 are having to transport water to their homes to fill
18 their cisterns.

19 Farmers are struggling with crispy, dead
20 crops. Ranchers are struggling with starving cattle.
21 The plants around our houses are brown and they're
22 dying. The trees that we love and the plants, our
23

1 vegetable gardens, and the trees and brush are on
2 fire in Texas.

3 If allowed, the TransCanada Keystone
4 pipeline would cross the sensitive Carrizo-Wilcox
5 aquifer and the Naches River. This is the third
6 largest aquifer in the state of Texas, and it
7 supplies a lot of people with their drinking water
8 and their domestic water. If there were a spill, it
9 would contaminate that very scarce, precious water
10 resource, in a time of exceptional drought. So we
11 can't risk that.

12 The tar sands pipeline would also turn up
13 the heat further on global warming, and we can't do
14 that. Right now, the jobs future in Texas is in
15 dealing with and recovering from the climate crisis,
16 putting out the fires. That's what the men and women
17 of our state are having to do right now. We're
18 having to rebuild the infrastructure in our homes and
19 buildings in the areas that have burnt.

20 The jobs future in Texas is also in clean
21 energy, constructing energy efficient homes and
22 buildings, installing solar panels. We're already

23

1 number one in Texas in wind power, and we can do the
2 same, we are doing the same right now with solar
3 power. We're already on that path. Soon, all the
4 large rooftops in Texas will be covered in solar
5 panels.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am --

7 MS. HOFFMAN: And we need the working men
8 and women here to take those jobs.

9 MS. COLEMAN: All right, thank you very
10 much. We heard you. Please again, anyone who cannot
11 finish, please submit your comments to the people at
12 the desk in the back. Okay. Number 186, please.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: 187.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: 188.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 189. Okay.

19 MR. ADAMS: Hello. My name is Austin
20 Adams, like the town, and then A-D-A-M-S, and I'm the
21 Chairman of Texas Environmental Democrats. I guess I
22 want to start by saying I appreciate a lot of the
23

1 concerns of our union brothers and sisters, who came
2 to testify today.

3 I grew up in an oil and gas family, so I
4 understand the economics and a lot of the
5 environmental considerations of that business. One
6 thing I wanted to kind of point out to them, that
7 their support of this kind of dirty technology is
8 really kind of short-sighted, because A, one of the
9 big things it's going to do is keep clean energy
10 technologies from coming to the fore and becoming
11 viable.

12 That's the future and this kind of
13 technology is really not going to last very long, in
14 keeping the stuff, keeping that kind of technology,
15 the dirty technology going is going to make it harder
16 and harder for clean technology to happen.

17 So another thing I wanted to talk about
18 was just my opposition to the tar sands exploration
19 in general. I mean there are a lot of problems with
20 the pipeline itself, like the jobs that are being
21 promised. I don't think those are going to be there,
22 in anywhere near the numbers that are being claimed.

23

1 Could there be spills? Yes, and they
2 could be bad. But kind of in the context, the larger
3 context of actually what they're going to do in
4 extracting that tar sand from the Alberta area,
5 that's going to be -- that could really put us behind
6 the eight ball in terms of reversing the damage of
7 climate change.

8 I've heard part of the forest the size of
9 Florida could be excavated, and that's not the way we
10 need to be getting our energy. So thank you very
11 much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your input.
14 We appreciate it. Number 190.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: 191.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 192.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 193.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: 194.

23

1 (No response.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: 195.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: 196, or okay. 195? Thank
5 you.

6 MR. GREEN: My name is Lee Green. I live
7 in New Braunfels, Texas. I'm a business agent --

8 COURT REPORTER: Your name, sir?

9 MR. GREEN: Lee Green, G-R-E-E-N. I live
10 in New Braunfels, Texas. I am a business agent with
11 Operating Engineers Local 450. We represent workers
12 all over South Texas.

13 The Keystone XL project will create
14 roughly 20,000 jobs in construction and manufacturing
15 at a time when these industries really need the
16 boost. The current unemployment rate in construction
17 is almost 14 percent.

18 For much of the last two years, the
19 industry has had unemployment levels over 20 percent.
20 This project is really essential for jobs. This
21 project will go a long ways to putting equipment
22 operators, pipefitters, laborers and truck drivers on

23

1 the job. After three years in the permitting
2 process, it's time to approve this project and allow
3 construction contractors to hire thousands of our
4 friends and neighbors to work on this job.

5 The jobs created will be good jobs with
6 good benefits, not low wage jobs like most of the
7 jobs being created here in Texas over the past few
8 years. These are exactly the kinds of private
9 investments that we need to get the economy moving
10 again.

11 I've heard several people in here say that
12 these are temporary jobs. I wonder if there's
13 anybody in here that thinks their job is permanent.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. GREEN: Consumers have already paid
16 for this project through extremely high prices at the
17 pumps that generate record profits for the oil and
18 gas companies every quarter. Why not allow these
19 same companies to invest in a vital component of the
20 United States infrastructure?

21 According to the concept of supply and
22 demand, this project should result in lower prices

23

1 for all of us at the pump, while decreasing American
2 dependence on Mideast oil. I sincerely hope that
3 those opposed to this project did not drive a car to
4 this meeting. I hope they do not use electricity at
5 home or at work, and I hope they do not use natural
6 gas for heating or cooking, because these are all
7 fossil fuels that have helped make this the greatest
8 country in the history of the world.

9 Please find the Keystone XL project in the
10 national interest and approve the Presidential permit
11 right away. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your input.
14 196, please.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: 197. Thank you.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Steve Williams,
18 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S, and this is the first time I ever
19 talked in a big area. I was a mechanic for 28 years,
20 so I know all about oil. I know all about fuels, I
21 know all about gases.

22 With this, I am for it, and being one of
23

1 the so-called, one of the thousands of people that
2 are unemployed in the state of Texas, let alone
3 Austin, I'm one of those people. I've been
4 unemployed for a year, and I'm too beat up to be a
5 mechanic anymore.

6 My heart goes out, because we need jobs,
7 and this is one thing I see would be able to get into
8 jobs. My dad built the Alaskan pipeline. I came
9 from California, and I don't see how many so-called
10 fires or leaks that we had in our pipeline come to
11 California. So I don't know what the big scare is,
12 of all these spills.

13 Let alone the people that are refining the
14 oils off the Coast. All that stuff is being
15 transferred overseas also. The thing is, Texas has
16 got all this oil, so how come it's not being used in
17 Texas? So no. We need to go somewhere else. So
18 that's what we need to do, is we need to get jobs to
19 fulfill the other areas, because we can't even get a
20 job here in Texas.

21 The only job you can get in Texas is
22 medically or a computer. So those aren't so-called

1 lifetime jobs, because who knows how long it's going
2 to be around for? This oil stuff, they call, they
3 have things called filters, filters that can handle
4 the crude oil. Crude oils can be used for different
5 things.

6 They're even coming out with nitrogen.
7 Over in Germany, they're coming out with nitrogen.
8 They're even designing the nitrogen burn car.
9 Mercedes Benz is coming out with it. I don't know if
10 you've seen it, but they had three vehicles from
11 Germany running on nitrogen. So that's a gas, which
12 gas comes from oil, some kind of oil. So I'm for
13 this, and I appreciate the time.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. 198.

16 MS. PHILIPS: My name is Hope Philips. I
17 am a birder and landowner from west of the Pedernales
18 River. The State Department has given the public one
19 day's notice to present our case against the Keystone
20 XL pipeline. Ms. Clinton, under your watch, the
21 State Department is folding to pressure from the
22 petroleum industry led by API, otherwise known as

23

1 Abominable Profit Increase.

2 They are using billions in profits, which
3 also fueled their political allies in Congress and
4 the hypocritical green tee shirts seen here today, to
5 exploit and destroy what little is left of our
6 environment, not out of concern for economic hardship
7 for any of us, but for their own pockets. We are not
8 fooled by their cynical rhetoric about creating jobs,
9 and neither should the Obama administration be
10 fooled.

11 Under pressure from the petroleum lobby
12 and multinational TransCanada, the State Department
13 is refusing to listen to scientists and even Nobel
14 peace laureates concerned about the welfare of the
15 whole world. The Obama administration's own
16 Environmental Protection Agency has called the State
17 Department's review of the Keystone XL pipeline
18 objectionable.

19 Strip mining a single barrel of tar sands
20 oil requires the destruction of four tons of boreal
21 wilderness, causing three times more global warming
22 pollution than conventional oil. The petroleum

23

1 industry has its head in the tar sands, if it cannot
2 differentiate conventional oil from tar sands oil.

3 TransCanada has no business in the boreal
4 forest anyway. This is North America's greatest
5 migratory bird nesting grounds. Tens of millions
6 will die as a result of tar sands, toxic waste and
7 the razing of billions of trees. TransCanada's in
8 the boreal forest because of gross greed. They
9 actually know better, and gross ignorance on the part
10 of the Canadian government.

11 TransCanada is guilty not only of gross
12 greed but also gross negligence. Their Keystone I
13 pipeline leaked 12 times in six states during its
14 first year of operation. The Keystone XL pipeline
15 will run across the Ogallala aquifer, which supplies
16 drinking water to millions of families. In the U.S.,
17 water is part of our national security. You can't
18 drink oil, and we're only as civilized as our next
19 glass of water.

20 In Texas, clean water is our most precious
21 commodity. With continued record heat, we will
22 barely have enough water to drink, let alone put out

23

1 fires. I call on President Obama to deny a
2 Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline,
3 which will surely speed not only our country's but
4 our planet's destruction. Clean water, clean air,
5 clean energy, clean jobs!

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. PHILIPS: And the best part is that we
8 will no longer have to listen to the transparent,
9 self --

10 MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for those
13 comments. Number 199, please.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Number 200.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: Number 201.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: 202.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: 203.

22 (No response.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: 204.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: 205. Here we go, 205.

4 MR. COMBS: Hello?

5 MS. COLEMAN: Yes.

6 MR. COMBS: Hello. My name is D.J. Combs.

7 I'm with the Laborers Union.

8 COURT REPORTER: Could you spell your last
9 name?

10 MR. COMBS: C-O-M-B-S.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

12 MR. COMBS: These jobs are very important
13 to stimulate the economy. We're not here to fight
14 about the environment. We care about the environment
15 just as much as anybody else. The work is what we
16 need, to keep things going here in America. We're
17 having a very hard time getting by. A lot of people
18 can't even make it and feed their families, and
19 they're out there.

20 I'm speaking with the people that are
21 against this out there, and they're telling me they
22 don't really know what they're doing. They don't

23

1 know how they're going to make it, how they're going
2 to get by, but they're fighting for a cause, and what
3 they're wanting to do is take away jobs.

4 So the main thing here is jobs, guys.
5 We're not here against the environment. We're here
6 because we need jobs, just as well as everybody else
7 here needs jobs. I don't think there's very many, if
8 there's any millionaires in here, stand up. But
9 everybody needs jobs, okay. Thank you guys.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.

12 206. Is that your number 206.

13 MR. FIDLER: No, I'm 205.

14 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, thank you.

15 MR. FIDLER: My name is Judge Fidler. I'm
16 a sophomore at St. Edwards University. My major is
17 Environmental Science and Policy, and while I'm
18 against the Keystone pipeline, I can understand the
19 points of views of the people who are for it, because
20 I agree with Mr. Combs, that we do need jobs. I've
21 heard a lot about the pros and cons of the pipeline
22 being built.

23

1 But something that has me concerned is
2 just because the probability of a spill is small with
3 this pipeline, that doesn't mean that it's not there.
4 The spill will happen. So I'm wondering is if a
5 spill does happen, is there a safe way to clean up
6 that spill, that won't affect the environment as much
7 as the spill itself.

8 Because as the BP oil spill in the Gulf
9 proved, both the oil spill and the techniques used to
10 clean up the spill can have negative effects on the
11 environment. So what I'm concerned is what could
12 happen to the environment if we use the wrong
13 techniques to clean up the spill. For that, I'm
14 against the pipeline.

15 But I do admire and respect the jobs that
16 this pipeline could bring to the state and to the
17 country. It's just I don't think we should get more
18 jobs at the cost of our nature. Thank you.

19 MR. MAGGIO: Could you just repeat your
20 name again please?

21 MR. FIDLER: Judge Fidler, J-U-D-G-E, F-I-
22 D-L-E-R.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Number
3 206, please.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: 207.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: 208. Okay, thank you.

8 MS. RANDERMANN: Hi. My name is Taurie
9 Randermann. It's T-A-U-R-I-E, Randermann, R-A-N-D-E-
10 R-M-A-N-N, and I'm actually here to deliver a
11 statement on behalf of my boss, State Representative
12 Stephanie Carter.

13 MS. COLEMAN: Excuse me, just one moment.
14 Please feel free to proceed. Just remember if it's
15 long --

16 MS. RANDERMANN: It's not.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, fine. Thank you.

18 MS. RANDERMANN: Very brief. "This
19 statement is to offer my strong support for the
20 extension of the Keystone XL pipeline into Texas.
21 The jobs the pipeline will help create are absolutely
22 critical. Now more than ever, it's crucial to

23

1 support private sector projects that boost our
2 economy and get people back to work, which is exactly
3 what Keystone XL pipeline will do.

4 This project is expected to create about
5 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs, as well
6 as generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue
7 for communities along the pipeline route. In
8 addition to its economic value, the Keystone pipeline
9 represents a secure, reliable source of oil to meet
10 our state's energy needs.

11 "Texas consumes more energy than any
12 state, accounting for 30 percent of the nation's
13 fuel. The Keystone pipeline will give local refiners
14 enhanced access to crude oil from Canada, and a
15 stable and dependable North American trading partner,
16 which could ultimately result in lower gas prices for
17 Texans.

18 "I ask that you carefully consider the
19 benefits of the Keystone pipeline's expansion to
20 Texas and our nation. This project epitomizes the
21 types of solutions we should be supporting to reduce
22 our dependence on foreign oil, and get Americans back

1 to work. Thank you for the opportunity to address
2 the Department on this very important issue."

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you again for your
5 remarks. Number 209, please. 209.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: 210.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: 211. Okay, 211. Thank you.

10 MR. HAMMICK: It's 210.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Oh, 210. All right.

12 MR. HAMMICK: My name is Adam Hammick.

13 The last name is spelled H-A-M-M-I-C-K. I agree with
14 everyone here that the United States needs more jobs,
15 but according to Cornell University's Global Labor
16 Institute, more jobs will be destroyed than created
17 by the pipeline.

18 The Institute's director, Sean Sweeney,
19 says that the Keystone XL will create far fewer jobs
20 in the U.S. than its proponents have claimed, and it
21 will actually destroy more jobs than it creates.

22 Jobs will be lost due to consumers paying 20 cents

23

1 more per gallon of gas, which, since we have a lot of
2 people in this country, adds up to \$4 billion per
3 year.

4 These additional fuel costs will suppress
5 other spending and jobs. Furthermore, oil spills,
6 pollution and increased greenhouse gases incur major
7 human health and economic costs, which means fewer
8 jobs. Thank you.

9 MR. MAGGIO: Could you state your
10 affiliation, Adam?

11 MR. MINNICK: I'm with 350.org.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Number
14 211, please.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: 212.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 213.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: 214.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: 215.

23

1 (No response.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: 216. Are you coming down,
3 216? Thank you.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: Good evening. I'm Enrique
5 Gonzalez. That is E-N-R-I-Q-U-E, Enrique, and
6 Gonzalez, G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: I'm a grad student here at
9 UT, and I'm here to oppose the Keystone pipeline.
10 Basically, most of what I'm worried about, most of it
11 has already been said here. But I have a question
12 for the State Department.

13 Specifically, my question is when is the
14 State Department going to take seriously oil spills,
15 because we have had many, many oil spills recently,
16 and the State Department is saying this huge pipeline
17 is not going to have a spill, or maybe it's going to
18 be contained.

19 But I think the State Department should
20 take seriously oil spills, mainly because they have
21 already contaminated the Yellowstone and the
22 Kalamazoo River, many rivers here. The BP oil spill

23

1 was huge. Although it didn't get covered in the
2 media, we are still actually seeing what that spill
3 brought to the Gulf here in Texas, mainly the
4 fisherman.

5 Actually, I'm also opposed to it because
6 the refineries here that would process the oil are
7 actually going to pollute the air, and actually I'm
8 an asthma patient. So I'm going to be affected by
9 that, and by the contamination, and that it could
10 contaminate water supplies here in Austin. So thank
11 you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
14 comments. Number 217, please. 217.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: 218.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 219.

19 MS. JOHANNIGSMEIER: Hi. My name is
20 Melissa Johannigsmeier. That's J-O-H-A-N-N-I-N-G-S-
21 M-E-I-E-R.

22 MR. MAGGIO: I'm sorry. Could you repeat
23

1 that?

2 MS. JOHANNIGSMEIER: J-O-H-A-N-N-I-N-G-S-
3 M-E-I-E-R. MS. COLEMAN: Thank you,

4 and your affiliation please?

5 MS. JOHANNIGSMEIER: I just came down here
6 by myself. I just found out about this yesterday.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

8 MS. JOHANNIGSMEIER: And I was horrified,
9 needless to say, when I heard that this would be
10 cutting through an aquifer that is responsible for
11 irrigating 30 percent of our land. Could this be
12 true? I can't even believe that this is something on
13 the table, if that is indeed true.

14 Also, even if there are no spills, that
15 this is going to increase the total carbon output of
16 all of our oil and gas industries by one-third. I
17 can't believe that at a time when we are in such a
18 climate crisis, that that would even be something on
19 the table.

20 Because this isn't just about us or our
21 kids or grandkids. It's about the earth for, you
22 know, an infinite amount of time, which we have a

23

1 responsibility to maintain if we want life to be able
2 to continue. I just feel that there's a culture of
3 just extracting everything we can from the earth,
4 without any regard for the consequences, just for the
5 profit of the short-term, and we're not paying enough
6 attention to the future of this one earth that we
7 have to sustain us. Sorry, I'm really nervous.

8 But I just feel, you know, if this had
9 happened under the previous administration, I would
10 feel kind of hopeless. But you know, we did elect
11 Barack Obama on this idea of hope and moving forward
12 and being progressive in thought and clean energy,
13 and I just think that this is -- not only is this
14 dirty oil, it's even dirtier than oil. It's moving
15 backward. It's not moving forward --

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. JOHANNIGSMEIER: Yeah. I mean people
18 need jobs, but what we need more than anything. I
19 mean right now we need jobs, but if we find ourselves
20 needing water and air, and you know, a breathable
21 climate and an earth to sustain us, we're going to be
22 in a lot more trouble than just needing a job.

23

1 I also think that any damage that could be
2 done here is permanent, and can't be fixed. We can
3 find jobs with anything. We can do anything.
4 There's so much technology and we're so advanced. To
5 just, you know, throw all that away for a permanent -
6 - okay, thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much, ma'am.
9 Thank you. Number 220, please. 220.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: 221. Thank you.

12 MR. McFARLANE: Good evening, ladies and
13 gentlemen, the panel. My name is Kenneth McFarlane,
14 Jr. I come to you this evening from Oklahoma City
15 Laborers Local 107. Thank you for giving us the
16 opportunity to debate these issues. This is the
17 American way. We talk about the importance of jobs.

18 We are the American public. But first, I
19 would like to say that we make up the so-called
20 corporations. We are the suits. The purpose of the
21 pipeline is very, very simple. It's going to
22 decrease the dependency of foreign crude. The

23

1 benefits is to stimulate the economy. Jobs is the
2 most important factor.

3 Americans need the ability to work. That
4 is the utmost need to work, to provide an income from
5 any source for the economy right now is paramount.
6 We are literally dying in our communities. Let's try
7 to work together with the environmental groups who
8 oppose us. They continue to say that the jobs that
9 they give us is going to be a short-term proposition.
10 I don't believe that. I believe that any jobs
11 provided for us is going to be long term.

12 I am a Christian man and a proud father of
13 two. I am a hard worker as well. I have two jobs,
14 as a matter of fact. There's a lot of concern about
15 the pipeline having risks. We are Americans. We
16 take risks. This is the reason why the pipeline --
17 we say that the pipeline is going to be risky. Yes,
18 life is a risk. But we continue to live on.

19 Please, President Obama and Secretary
20 Clinton, vote yes to the Keystone XL pipeline. It is
21 of the national interest to approve this bill. We
22 welcome the opportunity, we, the little guys in the

23

1 trenches, we the American public, we the little
2 suits. Thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
5 222, please.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: 223. Thank you.

8 MS. PRICE: Good evening. My name is
9 Sheree Price. It's spelled S-H-E-R-E-E, Price, P-R-
10 I-C-E, and I'm coming from a pastoral perspective and
11 I'm not coming with research and all that. But I'm
12 representing as a pastor and dealing with people that
13 are unemployed and depressed because they can't make
14 ends meet. I'm in favor of this pipeline. I believe
15 that it could do things that are positive and
16 negative.

17 But we can't live our lives in fear. We
18 have to just put our faith and trust in God, and I do
19 believe that there will be more positive out of this
20 than negative, and we just have to just trust God.

21 I believe that the Lord has given us signs
22 all over the world, different calamities and really

23

1 trying to get our attention on how to protect his
2 earth. So we just have to keep our trust in him. So
3 that's what I just leave with you, just I believe
4 that those people that are willing to make
5 investments in this kind of project, that is very
6 noble of them, to invest into the economy.

7 So like I said, I believe that it will
8 bring more positive than negative. So thank you for
9 your time and your patience, dealing with all the
10 different people you've had to deal with.

11 I don't know how you've kept your
12 composure, but I salute you today, and just be
13 prayerful. I believe that nothing happens by chance,
14 and God is sovereign, and we have to do our best as
15 citizens, as humans, and do our part in glorifying
16 him and doing the best we can do to protect his
17 environment.

18 So just don't live in fear but in faith.
19 So thank you again.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
22 views. Please, number 234. 224, I'm sorry. I

23

1 jumped ahead. 224.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: 225. Okay.

4 MR. GOMEZ: 224.

5 MS. COLEMAN: 224, I'm sorry.

6 MR. GOMEZ: My name is Eslerh, E-S-L-E-R-
7 H, Gomez.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, please. Your
9 affiliation, sir?

10 MR. GOMEZ: I'm just a guy.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Okay, okay.

12 MR. GOMEZ: All right. So today, you
13 know, we've been hearing about jobs. We've been
14 hearing about a way of harnessing new energy, right.
15 Now it doesn't make sense to me that we're trying to
16 do the same thing over and over again. We have to
17 look beyond this.

18 Yes, people, you know, you need. What do
19 you need? You need a job. What do you need a job
20 for? You need a job to feed your family. You need a
21 job to provide a house, right. You need a way to
22 make your social life, you know, be happy with one

23

1 another. Now the solution is not in money. The
2 solution is not in all jobs. Like I just hope that
3 all of you guys see that this is not moving forward.
4 This is moving backwards.

5 We need to move away from this. We can
6 create a new world in which we have sustainable
7 resources of energy. We cannot rebuild New York and
8 make it efficient. It would take a lot of resources.
9 But we can start new, make new cities for new people
10 for new jobs, that would sustain them.

11 It's not about money. This is about
12 money. This is what it's all about. That is why
13 we're here, because we're fighting money. We're
14 fighting the people who have the power. This is
15 ridiculous. It's ridiculous that I'm standing here
16 telling you this. Can't you comprehend what's going
17 on? Can't you see? Can't you see?

18 I'm pretty sure you can see. So thank you
19 very much, and peace and love, baby.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Number
22 225, please. Thank you.

23

1 MS. HANSEN: Hi. Ellen Hansen, E-L-L-E-N,
2 H-A-N-S-E-N. I'm here as a private citizen, but I'm
3 here because I care about our grandchildren. My
4 generation will be known in history as grasshopper
5 generation, and I'm very ashamed of that. We can do
6 better. We need to live sustainably, and that means
7 we need to have new jobs that are working on
8 sustainable energy.

9 But more urgently and related to the
10 pipeline, besides my grandchildren's generation
11 having to deal with learning disabilities and asthma
12 and autism, that come primarily from pollution of the
13 air and the water, now they have to deal with climate
14 change, and they will have to deal with scarce water.

15
16 The pipeline is going to have a very
17 adverse effect on climate change, and if you don't
18 believe James Hansen, I don't know who we believe.
19 But also on water, and even if there are no leaks,
20 the pipeline is going to affect water. In my
21 grandchildren's time, they will probably fight wars
22 over water. We need to really get serious about

23

1 safeguarding our water now.

2 So climate change and safeguarding our
3 water are the primary reasons that I oppose the
4 pipeline, and I hope that you will not approve it.
5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.
8 Number 226. 226.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: 227.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: 228.

13 MS. THOMPSON: That would be me. My name
14 is Pam Thompson, P-A-M, T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N, and we've
15 all introduced ourselves. But I think people here
16 deserve to know who you people are. In a stunning
17 conflict of interest, public hearings on federal
18 approval for a proposed tar sands pipeline are being
19 run by a contractor for the pipeline company itself.

20 The U.S. Department of State's public
21 hearings along the proposed route of the TransCanada
22 Keystone XL tar sands pipeline this week are under

23

1 the purview of Cardno Entrix, a professional
2 environmental consulting company that specializes in
3 permitting and compliance.

4 So I would like for you to tell me if any
5 of our comments are going to the State Department,
6 and are you employees of the State Department or
7 Cardno?

8 MS. COLEMAN: We are employees of the
9 State Department for many years. Your comments, both
10 verbally and in writing, will go to the State
11 Department. This is a public comment period. All
12 these comments are critical to making the decision,
13 which has not yet been made.

14 MS. THOMPSON: Is Cardno involved in this
15 process?

16 MS. COLEMAN: I don't want to go into the
17 -- I was asked by the State Department to come and
18 listen to you. That's what I know.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Are you employed by the
20 State Department?

21 MS. COLEMAN: I am employed by the State
22 Department.

23

1 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. So I would like to
2 make some other comments. The man that wrote that
3 was from MIT, so the email addresses that we're
4 supposed to send our comments to go to Cardno. We're
5 concerned. The tar sands had not ever concerned to
6 be refined until now, because of the small amount of
7 product versus the large costs involved,
8 environmentally and economically.

9 The monetary costs that we cannot afford
10 pales in comparison to the damage the leaks in the
11 pipeline will do to our nation's streams, lakes and
12 aquifers. Not only the path where it crosses, but
13 the toxins released through leaks will poison our
14 waterways in the vicinity.

15 The corrosive nature of the product
16 proposed to be transported via pipelines will render
17 them unstable in short order. This means leaks all
18 along the way, regardless of the shut off safety
19 valves in place, which if used, will mean pooling of
20 this destructive and poisonous substance above
21 ground, to prevent pressure build-up and explosions.

22

1 It will kill everything in its path. It
2 will create a heat island where it stands and a fire
3 hazard. If it catches fire, it can't be put out with
4 water. The hazardous plumes would create a kill zone
5 of toxic air. Alternatives exist for fuel and power,
6 but none for water that sustains life. No tar sands
7 pipeline permit.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
10

11 MS. THOMPSON: I have a comment, if I had
12 time to read it. I'm a member of the St. Barton
13 Creek Association. "To whom it may concern: The St.
14 Barton Creek Association, a non-profit Texas
15 corporation chartered in Travis County, Texas in
16 1979, joins hundreds of North American environmental
17 and conservation organizations to voice strong
18 opposition to the proposed XL Keystone pipeline."

19 MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, you've actually had
20 your time at the mic, which I appreciate your
21 comments. But please put them to the desk at the
22 back. All the comments will be sent to the State
23

1 Department. Thank you. Number 229, please.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: 229.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: 230.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: 231.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: 232.

10 MS. FAIRCHILD: 231.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Oh, 231. Thank you.

12 MS. FAIRCHILD: Hello. I'm Fancy, F-A-N-

13 C-Y, Fairchild. I'm representing myself. I'm

14 against the pipeline. As you've repeatedly heard,

15 the Keystone project would risk the health and

16 security of our watersheds, rivers, creeks, land,

17 wildlife and our personal health. Our government

18 should protect us against this.

19 Sucking the last bit of North American tar

20 sand toxic oil product through a 2,500 mile straw is

21 a greedy, short-term solution that does not address

22 the big problem: our dependence on petroleum. I

23

1 would also point out that this corporate greed for
2 oil profit that is a peril to our environment with
3 the XL Keystone project, has also caused our U.S.
4 foreign policymakers to make enemies all over the
5 world, as we use our military forces to steal their
6 oil.

7 We need to change this. We must look to
8 the future by protecting our environment, decreasing
9 our oil dependency, and creating healthy, sustainable
10 long-term jobs. I concur with the growing number of
11 scientists and prominent thinkers, that a paradigm
12 shift away from oil dependency is necessary for the
13 survival of our nation and the health of our planet.
14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.
17 Number 232, please.

18 MR. ELLIS: Here.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

20 MR. ELLIS: My name is Richard Ellis.

21 It's Richard E-L-L-I-S. I am here to oppose the
22 pipeline, and I apologize that I'm going to have to

23

1 improvise this, hopefully better than our governor.
2 I'm disabled and unable to write, and visually
3 impaired. So if you want to let me know when I've
4 overstepped my time, please do.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

6 MR. ELLIS: Basically, I would like to
7 speak from my head and my heart. I come from a
8 family of laborers, and I know how hard and the sweat
9 and the callouses people have on their hands.

10 I've also had the opportunity to sit in
11 the ivory towers of the corporations, and watch them
12 in their war rooms calculating how many lives of
13 laborers would be lost in building projects like
14 this.

15 We can't disregard the natural disasters
16 that have occurred around us in recent days. I'm old
17 enough to remember Love Canal. We've all lived
18 through the earthquakes and the like, and I want our
19 lands not to be a museum for my children, and I hope
20 their grandchildren will get to see this earth green,
21 and the things not in a museum. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

2 MR. MAGGIO: Thank you.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Now we're very closing down
4 on eight o'clock, which is the end of the program.
5 I'm going to call another one, and if we can speak
6 very rapidly. But the agreement was that our program
7 would end at eight. So let me call 233, please.
8 233.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: 234. Yes, 234.

11 (Off mic comments.)

12 MR. VOSS: Hello. My name is Christopher
13 Voss. Last name is V as in Victor, O-S-S, and I'm
14 here against the Keystone XL pipeline. I have many
15 reasons for opposing the pipeline. I'm going to talk
16 about several this evening.

17 The first is I live in Fannin County, up
18 in Northeast Texas. The pipeline is proposed to go
19 through the Northeast corner of our country, directly
20 through an area which is, again set aside by the
21 North Texas Municipal Water District, as a mitigation
22 area for the lower Bois' d'Arc Creek reservoir that

23

1 they are planning to build north of Bonham.

2 So that seems a direct conflict with the
3 mission of land set aside to be used as mitigation
4 land, in case the pipeline were to spill in that
5 area. That effectively nullifies the point of having
6 a set-aside area.

7 Also, I have concerns about the fact that
8 the -- the idea about the pipeline is that we are
9 supposed to be reducing our demand on foreign oil.
10 According to an Oil Change International study, the
11 easiest thing to do with bitumen tar sands oil is to
12 refine it into diesel, which will then be shipped to
13 Europe, where they use much more diesel than they use
14 in the United States.

15 So the idea that we're going to be
16 reducing the amount of money that we spend on oil
17 from foreign sources, based on the fact that we're
18 going to be pumping this oil from Canada down to the
19 Gulf is erroneous.

20 I'm also very concerned about the notion
21 of climate change. It takes much, much more energy
22 to produce and refine this tar sands oil into useable

23

1 petroleum than it does any other kind of petroleum
2 product. It seems crazy to me in this time of
3 burgeoning environmental catastrophe, to use a method
4 of extracting one small bit of energy and putting in
5 much, much more energy into that. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. I'm going to
8 have one more speaker, please.

9 (Off mic comment.)

10 MS. COLEMAN: That is not the problem.
11 The problem, sir we -- everyone was told when they
12 came that it would be -- we would call by number
13 until eight o'clock. So I'm going to call for one
14 more speaker.

15 (Off mic comment.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Number 235, please. 235.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: 236, 236.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. GRIES: 236. I'm Laurel Gries, L-A-U-
21 R-E-L, G-R-I-E-S, no affiliation. I'm here today to
22 be a voice for the many thousands who couldn't

23

1 appear, but whose lives will be dramatically or
2 fatally impacted by the Keystone pipeline. I speak
3 for the wildlife, the birds, who migrate to the
4 wetlands of the boreal forest to nest and rear their
5 young, including the warblers who visit my feeders in
6 South Austin, gray owls, bald eagles, just to name a
7 few.

8 I speak for the packs of wolves, who roam
9 the region in great numbers, for the woodland
10 caribou, already threatened, who call the forest
11 home. For the lynx and wolverine, who are fast
12 disappearing from points farther south. I'm here to
13 be a voice for the pristine lakes, a million or more,
14 and the trees among which they're scattered, spruce,
15 pine, tamarack and fir grow densely across the
16 forest.

17 The path of the pipeline, which would
18 carry a highly corrosive and acidic mix of gooey raw
19 bitumen and volatile gas, will traverse the habitat
20 of prong-horned antelope in Montana, whooping crane
21 stopovers in Nebraska, migratory ducks in South
22 Dakota, and eagle nesting sites in Oklahoma.

23

1 I need not speak for the people up and
2 down the pipeline route, as they themselves are
3 voicing opposition, including the Canadian
4 aboriginals, whose traditional ties to the forest run
5 deep, or the ranchers, farmers, cattlemen, Indian
6 nations and conservationists across the land, as well
7 as the communities right here in Texas, who already
8 suffer from refinery pollution and its adverse health
9 effects.

10 Undoubtedly, this administration is under
11 tremendous pressure from the oil lobby to proceed
12 with this fiasco. Quite troubling was Secretary of
13 State Clinton's inclination to approve the project
14 before an environmental review was complete, and the
15 too-cozy relationship between Paul Elliott,
16 TransCanada's lobbyist, and Mrs. Clinton. He was a
17 high-ranking aide on her presidential campaign.

18 Finally, I speak only for myself, as a
19 concerned citizen, and one who respects our living
20 planet. The breath-taking greed and utter disdain
21 for this earth, of oil corporation executives, are
22 truly forces to be reckoned with, and I believe all

23

1 options to prevent the pipeline devastation should be
2 on the table, including sabotage. Thanks.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your
5 attendance this evening. We appreciated hearing your
6 views. Remember that all opinions can be submitted
7 online, by fax and in writing. The people in the
8 corner there can give you addresses if you need them.
9 We appreciate your civility and thank you again.

10 (Whereupon, at 8:00 p.m., the meeting was
11 adjourned.)

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