

Statement on the Keystone XL Pipeline January 18, 2012

Earlier today I received the Secretary of State's recommendation on the pending application for the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. As the State Department made clear last month, the rushed and arbitrary deadline insisted on by congressional Republicans prevented a full assessment of the pipeline's impact, especially the health and safety of the American people, as well as our environment. As a result, the Secretary of State has recommended that the application be denied. And after reviewing the State Department's report, I agree.

This announcement is not a judgment on the merits of the pipeline, but the arbitrary nature of a deadline that prevented the State Department from gathering the information necessary to approve the project and protect the American people. I'm disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision, but

it does not change my administration's commitment to American-made energy that creates jobs and reduces our dependence on oil. Under my administration, domestic oil and natural gas production is up, while imports of foreign oil are down. In the months ahead, we will continue to look for new ways to partner with the oil and gas industry to increase our energy security—including the potential development of an oil pipeline from Cushing, Oklahoma, to the Gulf of Mexico—even as we set higher efficiency standards for cars and trucks and invest in alternatives like biofuels and natural gas. And we will do so in a way that benefits American workers and businesses without risking the health and safety of the American people and the environment.

NOTE: The related memorandum is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida January 19, 2012

The President. Hello, everybody! I am glad to be at Disney World, the Magic Kingdom. This is outstanding.

Well, let me begin by thanking Ruben for that extraordinary introduction. And he was too bashful; maybe he's not supposed to do this. I will do it. His restaurant is called Zaza [Yaya's]^{*}—new Cuban diners. So everybody check it out. And I told him, he was—on the way out, he was wondering, I don't know, I don't do this a lot. He's a natural. [Laughter] We're going to have to run him for something. [Laughter]

But thank you so much for taking the time. It is great to be here. It is rare that I get to do something that Sasha and Malia envy me for. [Laughter] That doesn't happen very often. Maybe for once they'll actually ask me at dinner how my day went. [Laughter]

And I confess, I am excited to see Mickey. It's always nice to meet a world leader who has bigger ears than me. [Laughter]

I want to acknowledge the presence of one of Florida's outstanding mayors, the mayor of Orlando, Buddy Dyer is in the house. We've got two outstanding members of my Cabinet, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Commerce Secretary John Bryson. Because they're focused on what brings us here today, and that's creating jobs and boosting tourism.

You just heard what a huge difference tourism makes for small businesses like Ruben's. Every year, tens of millions of tourists all over the world come to visit America. Makes sense. You got the greatest country on Earth, people want to come. As folks in Orlando know, that's good for our economy. It means people are renting cars and they're staying in hotels and

^{*} White House correction.