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November 18, 2014

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members and activists across the country we urge you to vote NO on the Hovden-Landrieu bill (S. 2280), which would approve construction of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

The Hovden-Landrieu bill would turn Congress into a permitting authority, overriding a review process that has been in place for decades under both Republican and Democratic administrations. This bill would also waive provisions of critical environmental statutes.

Congressional approval would be especially inappropriate now when the pipeline does not even have an approved route in Nebraska and the permit for the route through South Dakota has expired. Ranchers, farmers and Native American tribes along the proposed route have expressed grave concerns about the risk to their land and groundwater and the drinking water for millions of Americans is at risk.

Most importantly, approval of Keystone XL would worsen climate change by expanding extraction of the dirtiest oil on the planet.

According to the State Department's Environmental Impact Statement, the incremental emissions from extracting the tar sands oil that would flow through the Keystone XL pipeline would be 27 million metric tons of carbon, equivalent to the tailpipe emissions from 5.7 million cars or all the cars in Pennsylvania each year. Without the pipeline, tar sands expansion will be much more limited; rail is not an economically viable substitute.

The Keystone XL pipeline is all risk and no reward for America. The pipeline would carry Canadian tar sands oil across America's heartland to the Gulf coast, where much of it would be exported to foreign buyers. Once built, the pipeline would create fewer than fifty jobs. It would take us backward at a time when many communities across our country are experiencing the impacts of climate change through severe weather, coastal storms and crippling droughts.

We strongly urge you to oppose S. 2280.

Sincerely,

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