



**Pete Ricketts**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848  
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • [pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov](mailto:pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov)

July 22, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you are aware, the original Keystone XL pipeline route in Nebraska was revised to bypass the Sandhills and Ogallala Aquifer. This revision occurred as a result of a legislative and public process in Nebraska that worked. Residents concerned with the original pipeline route were able to have those issues addressed through the actions of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our state government. Earlier this year, the Nebraska Supreme Court cleared the way for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline's construction. Like many other Nebraskans, I support the revised route and the construction of the pipeline; however, you alone have the power to approve this important infrastructure project that will bring good-paying jobs and much-needed tax revenue to Nebraska counties during construction and for years to come. Consequently, I urge you to issue a Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

According to the findings of your own State Department studies, the Keystone XL pipeline will be the safest and most modern pipeline built in the United States. As recent events have demonstrated, it is critically important that our country deploy the most modern infrastructure and technology available to ensure the safety of our communities.

In addition to the increased safety that Keystone XL would offer, transporting oil by pipeline will be more environmentally friendly than transporting by other means. As your administration's studies have found, the alternative transportation options to the Keystone XL pipeline are far more carbon intensive than the pipeline.

Given that the public process in Nebraska has worked to ensure that the health, safety and environment of our communities along the proposed pipeline route are protected, I hope that you will take the necessary action to issue a cross-border permit for the Keystone XL pipeline so that Nebraskans can reap the economic and other benefits of this critical infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

Pete Ricketts  
Governor