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April 8, 2014
President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 30500
Dear Mr. President:

Please do not allow the Keystone XL Pipeline to be built across the productive agricultural heart land, because:

- Tar Sands Oil is heavy. It sinks in water and is impossible to completely remove.
- There have been numerous leaks in the Keystone XL Pipeline in the Canadian section which has already been built. Even new pipelines have weld failures.
- The Missouri and Mississippi rivers would be contaminated.
- The largest and most important aquifer in the U.S., which supplies fresh water for inhabitants and irrigation of that agricultural land, would be contaminated.
- It would cost more jobs than it would create. Ref. Global Labor Institute, Cornell Engineers, September 28, 2011.

The Koch Brothers own the only plant in the U.S. which can refine heavy crude oil. It is on the Caribbean coast. They purchased it from Sunoco a few years ago.

The Koch Brothers are the biggest investors in Tar Sands Oil land, holding leases on 1.1 million acres. The Koch Brothers front organizations are lobbying for the Keystone XL Pipeline. They buy ads which are lies, against the election of some who vote against their causes. The Koch Brothers are against environmental laws.

THE SOLUTION:

Renewable clean sources of energy, especially from wind and solar, are becoming priced competitively, to replace fossil fuels. **If necessary, the U. S. Government should subsidize a company to build and run a plant to refine the Tar Sands Oil at the U. S.-Canada border, or develop a public-private company to build it. Skilled workers and managers are in the area, working on the oil and natural gas strikes in North Dakota.** That would result in many high paying jobs being created. Gasoline, Diesel fuel and heating oil could be safely and economically piped and shipped to wherever it is needed in the U.S. Completing the Keystone XL Pipeline would not increase the supply of fuel in the U.S. **Refining the Tar Sands Oil at the border would increase the supply and lower prices of fuel in the U.S.**

Sincerely,


Albert A. Gabel

Professor Emeritus
Ohio State University

Copies: President's staff, VP Joe Biden, cabinet member, advisors, department heads and members of the Senate committees which can influence the decision.

Addendum: An alternative is to have Canada pipe the Tar Sands oil to the Pacific Ocean or to the St. Lawrence Sea Way for export. However, Provinces and local governments in Canada do not want the risk of the hazardous Tar Sands oil passing through their areas!

The Nation.

since 1865

Confronting the Kochs

For the next eight months, America will be awash in campaign ads funded by Americans for Prosperity, the political action committee backed by Charles and David Koch. With a combined net worth of \$80 billion, the Koch brothers have already funneled more than \$30 million into congressional

paces. As of February, AFP had spent more money on ads attacking North Carolina Senator Kay Hagan than Democratic groups had spent on all Senate races in the country combined.

The pushback from Democrats thus far has consisted mostly of efforts to debunk the lies spread by the Koch TV spots on Obamacare—pointing out, for example, that the Michigan woman who claimed it has made her leukemia treatments “unaffordable” will in fact save at least \$1,200 a year under her new plan. The Kochs’ election strategy is a sort of bait-and-switch, since their stake in public policy is, in fact, only tangentially related to healthcare. Anti-Obamacare messaging is part of a larger campaign against government regulation that threatens the Kochs’ bottom line—most critically, in response to climate change. “We have a broader cautionary tale,” Tim Phillips, the president of AFP, told *The New York Times*. “The president’s out there touting billions of dollars on climate change. We want Americans to think about what they promised with the last social welfare boondoggle and look at what the actual result is.”

The Kochs’ investments in fossil fuel include petrochemical complexes and thousands of miles of pipeline and refineries in Alaska, Minnesota, and Texas, an empire that emits over 24 million tons of carbon pollution every year, about as much as 5 million cars. Thanks to a recent investigation by the International Forum on Globalization, we now have confirmation of what was long suspected: the Kochs are one of the biggest investors in Alberta’s tar sands, with a Koch subsidiary holding leases on 1.1 million acres of land in the region, giving them a major stake in the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline—despite their insistence otherwise.

To protect their interests, the Kochs have long sought to discredit science and government. In Congress, more than a third of the House and a quarter of the Senate have signed a Koch-backed “no climate tax” pledge, promising to vote against any spending to fight climate change unless it’s offset by an equal amount of tax cuts. When Republicans took over the House in 2010, seventy-six of the eighty-five freshmen had signed the pledge; fifty-seven had received campaign contributions from Koch-affiliated groups. Since then, the House has voted to bar the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gas emissions and has repeatedly cut its budget. If the GOP retakes the Senate this year, the party will be even more indebted to the Kochs.

Environmental groups plan to provide cover for candidates under fire who favor “clean energy and clean air policies.” But many Koch-targeted Democratic senators—including Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Mark Begich of Alaska, Mark Pryor of Arkansas and Mark Warner of Virginia—support the Keystone XL pipeline and some have opposed the EPA’s attempts to regulate carbon pollution. President Obama talks seriously about climate change, and his EPA has made some good moves, but he’s also hailed the domestic oil and gas boom as if “energy independence” could justify climate destruction. The answer to our planet’s predicament, at least for now, is not going to come from the Democratic Party. Nevertheless, it is crucial for the climate movement to expose the efforts of the Kochs and the other fossil fuel giants to hijack the democratic process for their own dirty ends.

