

Keystone XL is not in our best interest

The Keystone XL Pipeline has been in the news recently as President Obama's decision to not be pressured into agreeing to it was publicized. Here is some information not widely known about the Canada Tar Sands project.



**Sharon Vocke
Green Yet?**

First, Tar Sands will not reduce dependence on foreign oil. The Canadian oil will be transported to U.S. refineries to overseas markets. The Gulf Coast refiners plan to refine the Canadian crude supplied by the pipeline into diesel and other products for export to Latin America and Europe.

Proceeds from these exports are earned tax-free.

Keystone XL will increase gas prices for

Americans, especially farmers, which will impact us at the grocery store. The Midwest is currently oversupplied, keeping oil prices there relatively low. This pipeline will allow the crude to be piped to the gulf coast for export causing an estimated \$0.20 per gallon increase in prices

in that region.

Also, the number of jobs expected to be added is greatly inflated.

According to TransCanada, the company building the pipeline, just 11 percent of the construction jobs on the Keystone I pipeline in South Dakota were filled by South Dakotans, and most of them were for temporary, low-paying manual labor. Two unions oppose the pipeline, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and the Transport Workers Union (TWU).

In their August 2011 statement they say, "We need jobs, but not ones based on increasing our reliance on Tar Sands oil. There is no shortage of water and sewage

pipelines that need to be fixed or replaced, bridges and tunnels that are in need of emergency repair, transportation infrastructure that needs to be renewed and developed.

Many jobs could also be created in energy conservation, upgrading the grid, maintaining and expanding public transportation – jobs that can help us reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy efficiency."

Safety is also an important concern. If there were a rupture in the Keystone XL pipeline, it would cause a BP style oil spill in this country's heartland, over the source of fresh drinking water for 2 million people. The U.S.

Pipeline Safety Administration has not yet conducted an in depth analysis of the safety of diluted bitumen, or raw tar sands, in spite of the unique safety concerns posed by its more corrosive properties.

TransCanada predicted the Keystone I pipeline would have one spill in 7 years. However, there were actually 12 spills in one year.

The company was told to dig up 10 sections of pipe when government-ordered tests show that defective steel may have been used.

In spite of this, Keystone XL will use steel from the same Indian manufacturer.

This new addition to

the pipeline will cross through America's agricultural breadbasket, the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers, the Ogallala aquifer, sage grouse habitat, walleye fisheries and more. There is also pollution risk to the communities where the crude may be refined. We should also take into account the increases in carbon emissions that would worsen climate change.

Clearly, this project is not in the best interest of this country.

Sharon Vocke is the co-owner of the local company Evergreen Energy, which installs geothermal, solar and wind systems. You can reach her at sharon@greenyet.net.



SUBMITTED

Sons of Italy officers selected

The Southington Sons of Italy Club recently installed its 2012 officers. Front row, from left, Art Secondo, secretary, Gino Torrone, financial secretary, Ray Ricciardone, treasurer, Jim Lucente, president, Mike Milo, vice president.

Back row, from left, Luigi Laceda, sergeant of arms, Dom Palazzo, director, Ricky DiBacco, director, Bob Triano, director, Lou Angelillo, director, Tont DiStasio, director, Greg Radin, trustee, Carmine Mennone, trustee, Jim Frauheim, trustee, Bob Giammatti, trustee.

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