

November 12, 2011

An open letter to the Republican candidates for President:

Tomorrow evening, at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, each of you will have the opportunity to discuss some of our country's most pressing national security concerns.

We urge you to use this occasion to focus on the topic of American energy independence and what you would do as our next Commander-in-Chief to ensure that the United States breaks its addiction to Middle Eastern oil.

This issue could not be timelier. Reports indicate that objections from environmental radicals aligned with the "Occupy" protests are mounting pressure on the Obama Administration to further delay approving permits for the Keystone XL pipeline. As you know, a decision on permitting was expected to come before the end of the year. However, the project continues to be pushed aside as President Obama considers the demands of extremists within his party who would ignore the hundreds of thousands of American jobs that this project is expected to create.

The pipeline would transport crude oil from Alberta's oil sands to refineries in Texas. It comes from our closest neighbor, a steadfast ally in the war on terror, and a country deeply committed to environmental stewardship.

The Keystone XL project is expected to create more than 340,000 new jobs in the United States. Over the next four years, South Carolina companies and suppliers are expected to create nearly 2,000 new jobs while adding over \$128 million to our state's economy.

The U.S. State Department has already extensively studied the pipeline project and concluded that it presents little environmental risk. Yet, in the face of the worst economy in modern history, the bureaucratic delays continue as our unemployment lines grow longer.

It is ironic that this political posturing comes from a President who places a premium on building "infrastructure". The pipeline represents a \$7 billion, 1,700-mile-long infrastructure project driven by private sector investment.

Polls have consistently shown that South Carolinians and the nation as a whole vastly support deep sea energy exploration. However, the Obama Administration continues to set up regulatory roadblocks here at home, while supporting Brazil's upstart oil exploration. SC voters

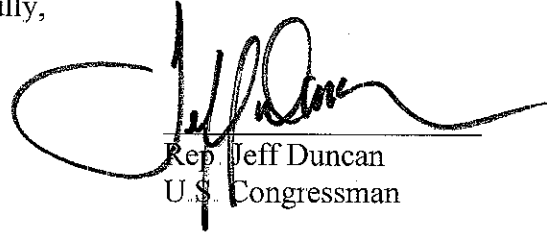
want a President armed with a real energy plan that will grow our economy and make us energy independent by expanding our access to all forms of energy.

Americans are desperate for a president who will restore our prestige abroad and our pride here at home. We think that restoration can and should begin on the Wofford College stage tomorrow night with your unwavering commitment to the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline project and to domestic drilling.

Respectfully,



Rep. Joe Wilson
U.S. Congressman



Rep. Jeff Duncan
U.S. Congressman