November 14, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE PROJECT (H.R. 5682/S. 2280)

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leaders Reid, McConnell, and Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations representing American construction workers, contractors, and suppliers strongly support legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project (H.R. 5682/S. 2280).

The Keystone XL pipeline has been pending for more than six years. The delay threatens job creation, economic growth, and our relationship with Canada, our closest ally and trading partner.

The State Department’s final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) makes clear the negative environmental effects of the Keystone XL pipeline will be minimal while the project will provide significant economic and national security benefits for the country. By bringing an extra 830,000 barrels of oil per day to U.S. refineries, the pipeline would create American jobs and enhance our national security by reducing U.S. reliance on energy resources from less stable regions. Continued volatility in those regions only reinforces the urgent need to tap into new energy sources and the Keystone XL pipeline is a safe, secure way to ensure the nation’s long-term energy security.

During the project’s construction, the Keystone XL pipeline would support more than 42,000 jobs across the country, translating to $2 billion in earnings for workers. A large number of new jobs created by this project would be in the construction sector. The State Department also concluded that the pipeline’s construction would contribute approximately $3.4 billion (or 0.02 percent) to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). Additionally, many state and local governments will see the benefit of significant tax revenues as a result of the increased economic activity.

Following the project’s completion, the Keystone XL pipeline operations will continue to employ American workers and generate economic activity. Importantly, property tax revenue during operations would be substantial for many counties, with an increase of 10 percent or more in 17 of the 27 counties with proposed project facilities, directly benefiting local communities.

Put simply, Keystone XL offers a safe, practical way to bring more Canadian oil to U.S. refineries, thereby benefitting American consumers and workers, and improving our energy and economic security. The project serves our national interest and should be approved without delay. Consequently, we urge you to
support and work for enactment of legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project. Further delay is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Rental Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Supply Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
Energy Equipment & Infrastructure Alliance
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Union of Operating Engineers
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Utility Contractors Association
North America's Building Trades Unions
Portland Cement Association
Steel Manufacturers Association
United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters

c.c. All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate