United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As you begin your tenure as Secretary of State, we urge you to make the timely approval of the Keystone XL pipeline one of your top priorities. We believe that you and the President should remain committed to reaching a decision within the first quarter of this year.

The State Department received the new route approved by the State of Nebraska on January 22, 2013, but the Department has yet to inform the public and stakeholders of a definitive process for the final decision. We urge you as Secretary of State to ensure that this decision process be completed promptly.

As you noted in your recent discussions with the Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird, we have an important energy relationship with Canada. The Keystone XL pipeline will supply both energy from our closest friend and partner and create jobs in the United States. Further delay will continue to hurt job creation and may damage our relationship with Canada. We cannot afford more delay.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator

Max Baucus
U.S. Senator

Jeff Sessions
U.S. Senator

Mark Begich
U.S. Senator

Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator

Joe Donnelly
U.S. Senator

John Boozman
U.S. Senator

Kay Hagan
U.S. Senator

Rob Portman
U.S. Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senator

David Vitter
U.S. Senator

Mary Landrieu
U.S. Senator

John Barrasso
U.S. Senator

Joe Manchin
U.S. Senator

Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator

Mark Pryor
U.S. Senator

John Cornyn
U.S. Senator

Jon Tester
U.S. Senator

Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senator

Mark Warner
U.S. Senator