

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We write today to raise serious concerns about conflicts of interest in the preparation of the pending supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The Department of State apparently overlooked these conflicts when it accepted Environmental Resources Management's (ERM) bid to perform the analysis. Because of the seriousness of the conflicts and because of allegations that ERM lied to the Department of State to get the contract, we believe no EIS from the company – draft or final – should be accepted by the administration before these issues are resolved.

As the *Christian Science Monitor* wrote in August:

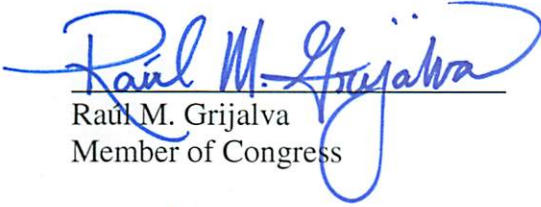
In July, Friends of the Earth and the Checks and Balances Project, another advocacy group, said they uncovered publicly available documents online that show TransCanada, ERM, and an ERM subsidiary have worked together at least since 2011 on a separate pipeline project in Alaska. Last week, Bloomberg Businessweek posted a 2010 document in which ERM lists TransCanada as a client.

That would seemingly contradict the conflict-of-interest agreement ERM submitted to the State Department in June 2012. When asked if ERM had any direct or indirect relationship with any business entity that could be affected in any way by the proposed work in the three years leading up to the project, the company answered, "No. ERM has no existing contract or working relationship with TransCanada."

The Department of State Office of Inspector General is conducting an ongoing investigation of these issues, and its findings are expected next February at the earliest. It would be unwise and premature for the Department of State to release an EIS prepared by ERM while it remains under investigation for lying to federal officials about its ties to TransCanada and over a dozen oil companies with a direct stake in whether or not Keystone XL gets approved.

We respectfully request that you delay the release of the Keystone XL SEIS until the inspector general's report is completed and has been made publicly available. The integrity of contractors is essential to the National Environmental Policy Act process. If the allegations that ERM lied to the Department of State about its conflicts of interest turn out to be true the Department of State must conduct a new EIS that is not tainted by conflicts of interest.

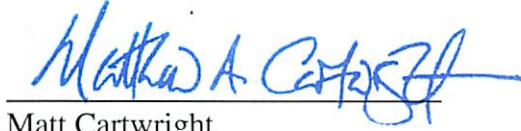
Sincerely,



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.,
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



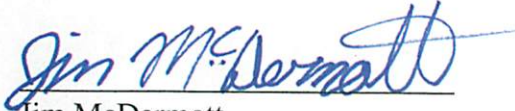
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



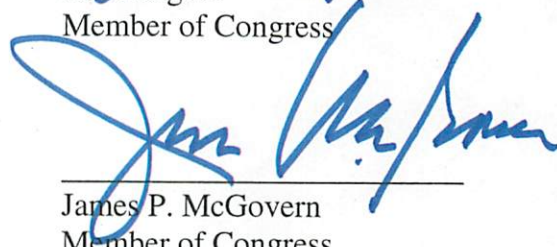
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



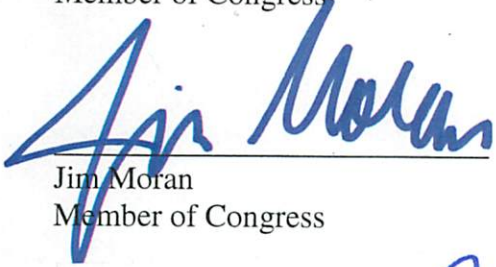
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



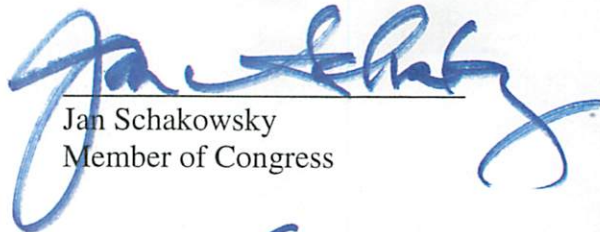
Jim Moran
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



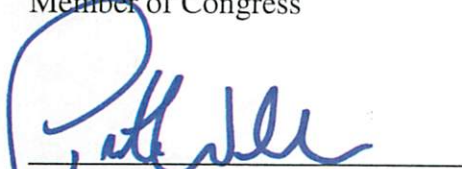
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress