

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Markup of H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**April 16, 2013**

Today, this Subcommittee is making its third attempt in two years to grant special treatment to TransCanada's Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. This bill waives the rules to get Canada's dirty tar sands oil to the Gulf, where it can be sent to other countries. That's a great deal for oil companies that produce, sell, or refine tar sands crude like Koch, Valero, and Shell. But it's a dangerous proposition for the rest of us.

In May 2012, TransCanada submitted its application for the Keystone XL Pipeline Northern Route. The State Department drafted a supplemental environmental analysis, which was issued for public comment last month. When the public comment period ends, the State Department will finalize the environmental analysis. Then the Department will take 90 days to determine whether approval of the project is in the public interest, considering effects on the economy, national security, the climate, and other factors.

This is an appropriate process for a highly controversial project. It gives Americans an opportunity to weigh in. It allows the President to determine what is really in the best interests of the country. And it attempts to ensure that if the project does go forward, we do it as safely as possible.

But this bill would short-circuit the process and dictate the result. It would grant the permits by congressional fiat. It would lock out the public, eliminate the President's responsibility to balance competing interests, and block federal agencies from minimizing destruction of wetlands and endangered species habitats.

Even if you support the pipeline, you should oppose this bill.

I oppose both the bill and the pipeline because Keystone XL is a bad deal for America. We get all of the risk, while oil companies profit by expanding production of the dirtiest oil on the planet and sending it overseas.

My greatest concern is the climate impacts. Experts tell us that building Keystone XL will let oil companies triple production of the tar sands. That's simply not consistent with any

future scenario for avoiding catastrophic climate change. There are other grave risks as well, particularly for communities in the path of the pipeline, as the Mayflower spill showed us once again.

This Subcommittee's job is to address the most pressing energy, air quality, and climate problems facing America today. But instead of doing our job, we're busy granting special favors for oil companies.