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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 12, 2011

Honorable John Boehner, Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I express our support for the quick approval of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline which is currently being considered. Approval of this project is critical to the nation from the standpoints of both national security, in order to reduce our nation's need for oil from regimes hostile to our country, and economic security, in order to create permanent jobs for veterans who are currently unemployed due to the current economic crisis in this country.

Data indicate the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project has the potential to immediately create 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs and will further stimulate related business activity that could lead to another 250,000 permanent jobs. As you know, returning veterans from current conflicts, as well as veterans of prior conflicts, are disproportionately unemployed when compared to other citizens in similar situations. Veterans need these potential jobs, and this project is an opportunity to provide those 'shovel ready' jobs now.

In addition, completion of this pipeline, which will carry approximately 700,000 barrels of oil per day from Canada to refineries in this country, will reduce our nation's reliance on imports that can be disrupted by foreign conflicts, terrorism, and acts of piracy. Consequently, this pipeline project will assure the United States of a secure and reliable source of energy that will enhance our national security and economic stability.

Thank you for your efforts to provide jobs and economic security for our nation and for your support of America's service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

FANG A. WONG  
National Commander

C: Honorable Nancy Pelosi