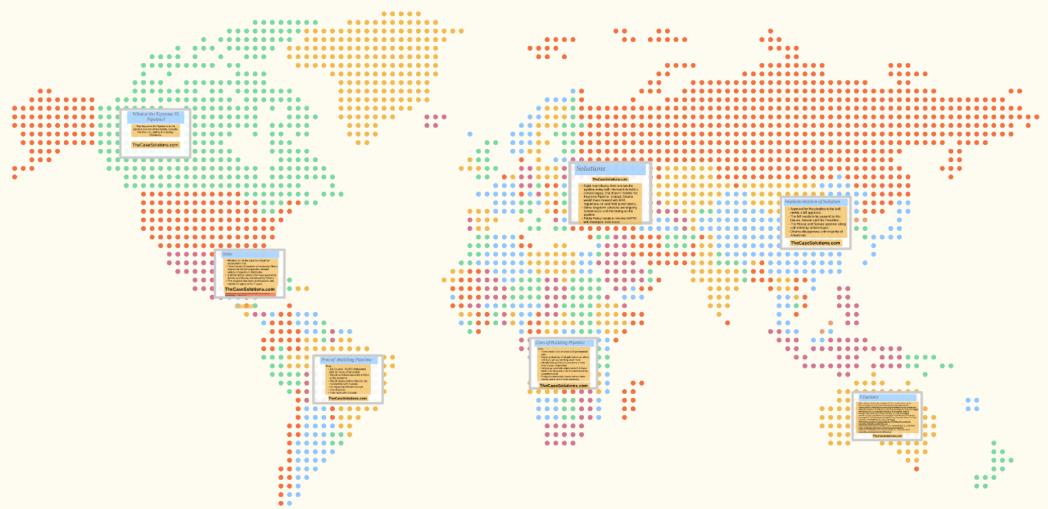


TransCanada's Keystone XL Pipeline: Unfinished Business



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What is the Keystone XL Pipeline?

The Keystone XL Pipeline is an oil pipeline that runs from Alberta, Canada into the U.S., ending in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Issue

- Whether or not the pipeline should be expanded or not
- TransCanada (Canadian oil company) filed a request for further expansion of route options of pipeline in Nebraska.
- A bill for further construction was passed by Senate and House, but vetoed by Obama.
- This proposal has been questionable and waiting for approval for 7 years.

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http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/24/obama-keystone-veto/23879735/ (play until 1:04)

Pros of Building Pipeline

Pros

- Job creator.. 42,000 temporary jobs in construction period
- Would contribute about \$3.4 billion to US economy
- Would create definite friendly ally relationship with Canada
- No impact on climate change
- Low oil prices
- Free trade with Canada

Cons of Building Pipeline

Cons

- There would only be around 35 permanent jobs
- Higher probability of oil spill which can affect rivers we get our drinking water from
- Already has spilled a dozen times in less than a year of operation
- Utilizes tar sand oils which emits 3-4 times more CO2 emissions into environment than conventional oil
- Fixing environmental issues means more money spent, which hurts economy

Solutions

- Right now Obama does not see the pipeline being built. He wants to build a climate legacy, that doesn't include the Keystone Pipeline. Instead, Obama would move forward with EPA regulations on coal-fired power plants.
- Some long-term solutions are ongoing maintenance and monitoring on the pipeline.
- Public Policy Solution- Involve NAFTA with free/open trade issue.

Implementation of Solution

- Approval for the pipeline to be built needs a bill approval.
- The bill needs to be passed by the House, Senate and the President.
- The House and Senate approve along with minority of Americans
- Obama disapproves with majority of Americans

Citations

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