



March 7, 2014

Bureau of Energy Resources  
Room 4843  
Attn: Keystone XL Public Comments  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

**RE: Docket No. DOS–2014–0003 – Notice of 30 Day Public Comment Period Regarding the National Interest Determination for TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P.’s Presidential Permit Application**

These comments are submitted for the record to the U.S. Department of State on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in response to the Notice of 30 Day Public Comment Period regarding the National Interest Determination for TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P.’s Presidential Permit Application published in the February 5, 2014 edition of the *Federal Register*.

NFIB is the nation’s leading small-business advocacy association, representing members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB’s mission is to promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses. NFIB represents about 350,000 independent-business owners who are located throughout the United States.

The cost of energy remains one of the top concerns of small business owners, who rely on affordable energy to operate their businesses successfully. In the 2012 edition of NFIB’s *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, “Cost of Natural Gas, Propane, Gasoline, Diesel, Fuel Oil” ranked as the third-most important priority among NFIB’s members.<sup>1</sup> Nearly 35 percent of respondents cited energy costs as a “critical” issue to their business.

And according to NFIB’s *Energy Consumption* poll, energy costs are one of the top three business expenses in 35 percent of small businesses.<sup>2</sup> Providing more affordable energy will directly help small businesses reduce the impact high energy prices have on their businesses.

Accordingly, NFIB believes it is in the nation’s interest to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline connecting existing pipelines in Nebraska to plentiful crude oil resources in Canada and the northern United States. From there, this oil can be sent to refineries in the Gulf Coast for processing.

NFIB believes construction of this 875-mile portion of the pipeline is important for reducing America's reliance on foreign energy and helping to lower the cost of fuels small businesses use every day. In addition, the project has the potential to create thousands of jobs that will help create and support small businesses in communities where the jobs are created.

NFIB strongly urges the State Department find this pipeline to be in the national interest. Additionally, we urge the administration to expeditiously approve this project that will benefit small businesses and the American economy.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the National Interest Determination. Should the State Department require additional information, please contact NFIB's manager of regulatory policy, Daniel Bosch, at 202-314-2052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Danner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Danner  
President and CEO  
NFIB

---

<sup>1</sup> *Small Business Problems and Priorities*. NFIB Research Foundation. 2012.

<http://www.nfib.com/research-foundation/priorities>

<sup>2</sup> *NFIB National Small Business Poll: Energy Consumption*. NFIB Research Foundation. 2006.

<http://411sbfacts.com/files/EnergyConsumption%5B1%5D.pdf>