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DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1602

December 13, 2011

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The Honorable Richard Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

As a member of the Illinois congressional delegation, I ask you as the Senate Majority Whip to support legislation that will create jobs for Illinois citizens. I am deeply disappointed by Senate leadership's refusal to take up the twenty-five bipartisan jobs bills passed by the House of Representatives this year. The American people are demanding solutions from Washington, rather than the consistent failures hampering our economy and creating unease for job creators across the country. Action must be taken to create a level of certainty in order for businesses to hire.

For Illinois, one of the most bipartisan job creating bills that passed the House is the North American-Made Energy Security Act. The Keystone XL project will directly employ 20,000 workers during construction, with the majority of these jobs in the Midwest. It requires zero taxpayer dollars and has the support of six major labor unions. The pipeline will transport 800,000 barrels of oil a day from our ally Canada, making us less vulnerable to Venezuela, Angola and Nigeria. With the recent decision to reroute the pipeline outside the Nebraska Sand Hills, the opposition to the pipeline has been displaced. The decision can't wait until after the Presidential election. Failure to act on the pipeline would result in America's loss and China's gain. The American people need jobs now and only Congress can put this vitally important question to the President.

I urge you to support The Middle Class Tax Relief & Job Creation Act of 2011, legislation that would finalize a decision on this long delayed project. The permitting project has been extended for 39 months, a process that normally takes 18 to 24. Following the House passage of the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act, the Administration reiterated that a decision on the permit would be made by December 31, 2011. The President's decision to further delay the decision until after the election puts too many jobs at risk in the name of politics.

The American people are tired of decisions made due to political calculations. This bipartisan jobs project needs your leadership in the Senate. I appreciate your consideration to put Illinois workers back to work and promote our nation's energy security.

Sincerely,



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress