



# CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

VALUES | WORTH | ACTION

**Dear President Obama and Secretary Kerry,**

The Center for Rural Affairs is a non-profit organization based in Lyons, Nebraska. The organization works on a variety of rural issues, ranging from health care, economic and community development to clean energy and sustainable agriculture. We work to provide genuine opportunity for all in rural America.

The Keystone XL pipeline threatens our rural communities and the natural resources we depend on. We believe the pipeline is not in the best interest of rural communities or those who depend upon agriculture for their livelihood.

Development is good and necessary, but we need to make sure we are doing the kind of development that will help and not hurt our rural communities. Rather than increasing investment in another fossil fuel source and laying the groundwork for transporting that fuel across the nation, we should instead invest in homegrown renewable energy. The risk involved with transporting tar sands cannot be ignored, as it threatens our natural resources and could have untold impact on agriculture.

Rural citizens would stand to benefit a lot more from increased renewable energy investment, and from decreasing contributions to climate change. It is time for action, and rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline is the perfect banner move for this new direction. It's time we combine efforts to bring energy development back to renewable, homegrown sources, protect our natural resources, and begin to curb our contributions to global climate change.

It is for these reasons that the board of the Center for Rural Affairs is participating in the day of action against the Keystone XL pipeline and standing in solidarity with other groups that ask the administration to oppose the pipeline. Included in this letter is a photo of the board at our most recent quarterly meeting.

We urge Secretary Kerry, the State Department, and President Obama's Administration as a whole to reject the Keystone XL pipeline.

Sincerely,  
The Center for Rural Affairs Board and Advisory Board

**Pictured in the enclosed photo**

*Board Members:*

Joe Blankenau—Wayne, NE  
Garry Clark—West Point, NE  
Lowell Fey—Nebraska City, NE  
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Becky Gould, Secretary—Lincoln, NE  
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Jim Knopik, President—Belgrade, NE  
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Keith Mahaney—Walthill, NE  
Cy Pinkelman, Executive Committee—Hartington, NE  
Maryanne Rouse—Omaha, NE  
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Paul Swanson—Hastings, NE  
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Mark Epp—Henderson, NE  
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