

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

January 20, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Congratulations on your inauguration, and I look forward to working with you to advance America's and Montana's interests at home and abroad. Where there are shared priorities, I will be a willing partner with your administration for the benefit of Montana. Where there are differences, such as today, I will be a strong voice for Montana.

Despite broad, bipartisan support for the Keystone XL pipeline, including from all members of Montana's bipartisan congressional delegation and from Democratic Governors Steve Bullock and Brian Schweitzer who preceded me, I was disappointed that you signed an executive order today to halt its construction.

A symbolic gesture for your fledgling, hours-old administration, this decision has real and devastating consequences in Montana. With your executive order, gone are the thousands of good-paying American jobs, hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to support our local communities and schools, the opportunity to advance America's green energy infrastructure, and America's energy security.

In the revocation of the cross-boundary permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, Montanans see the revocation of years and years of diligent, bipartisan work to bring this project to fruition. Hardworking Montana families still grappling with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic feel the rug pulled out from under them.

Your campaign slogan, "Build Back Better," would seem to apply to critical infrastructure projects such as Keystone XL pipeline. With its construction terminated, the oil will still reach markets in the U.S. and around the globe. Without a pipeline, though, it will be transported more slowly by trucks and other means, endangering the environment, delaying delivery and making it more expensive for consumers who are struggling to make ends meet amid the pandemic.

As you know, this project has been rigorously vetted to meet safety and environmental standards. Any delays in its construction are purely political, because unfortunately it has become a partisan symbol at the expense of hardworking Americans.

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You have an opportunity to cut through the malarkey and make the right decision for the countless Americans, including Montanans, who would benefit from the investment and the low-cost energy the project provides. I urge you to reconsider your executive order and seize that opportunity.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor