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December 6, 2011

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
Room 306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the 13 national and international unions and 2 million skilled craft professionals that comprise America's Building Trades Unions, I am pleased to endorse your legislation, S. 1932, *the North American Energy Security Act*. I want to thank you for your leadership to introduce this critical legislation that would commence the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline project.

By requiring the Secretary of State to issue a permit within 60 days unless the President determines that it is not in the national interest, the legislation would allow construction of the Keystone XL project to begin in 5 of the 6 states the pipeline crosses.

Currently, the entire project is to be delayed until 2013 when the State Department expects to conclude the process of studying and re-routing the Nebraska portion of the pipeline. Enactment of S. 1932 will mean a significant portion of the projected 20,000 direct jobs and the 118,000 spin-off jobs will be created immediately.

America's Building Trades Unions have a long history of support for the Keystone XL project. Our support of the project is centered on the potential positive job impact for our members who have been the hardest hit by the Great Recession. Along with the Operating Engineers, four of our craft unions - the Laborers, the Teamsters, the Plumbers and Pipefitters, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - have worked with TransCanada to construct this pipeline under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). This PLA will ensure that the skills and expertise of the safest, most highly trained and productive workforce in the world will be utilized on this important project.

In addition to the vital job opportunities for our members, the Keystone XL project is also essential for our nation's energy security. In my view, the Keystone XL project makes both energy and economic sense for America.

I believe S. 1932 represents a reasonable and practical approach to both the problems of economic growth and energy security, and I greatly appreciate your sponsorship of this necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Ayers
President