



December 2, 2011

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the American Supply Association (ASA), the national organization serving wholesale distributors and their suppliers in the plumbing, heating, cooling and industrial and mechanical pipe, valves and fittings industries, we would like to thank you for your efforts in bringing energy independence to the United States. **Specifically, we support the development of the Keystone XL Pipeline and appreciate your leadership by introducing S. 1932, the North American Energy Security Act.**

The Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Piping (PHCP) and industrial and mechanical Pipe, Valves and Fittings (PVF) channel encompasses nearly 3,600 corporations with 5,300 outlets and 75,000 employees nationwide. The men and women of the American Supply Association are primarily multi-generation, independent wholesale distributors who are highly dependent on a healthy residential and commercial construction sector. With the ongoing turmoil in our economy showing few signs of certainty, we thank you for pursuing this much-needed infusion in industrial development that will bring thousands of new jobs which our economy desperately needs.

Like you and your 38 co-sponsors, there is nothing we want more than for America to be energy independent, but the reality is that we are not yet there. Likewise, our use of petroleum isn't likely to contract in the short term. With the opportunity to securely import much of our energy needs from our friends to the north rather than those who may not have our best interests at heart, we support developing a new pipeline with our allies in Canada.

The American Supply Association prides itself on safely transporting gases and liquids to the benefit of the American economy each and every day. Whether it is the meticulous fabrication of valves that serve as essential connectors, to meeting the needs of the independent contractors installing such equipment, ASA's members provide vital services and employ thousands of Americans directly, and even more indirectly. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Daniel Hilton
Director of Government Affairs
American Supply Association

