

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

WHEREAS, the United States relies – and will continue to rely for many years – on gasoline, diesel and jet fuel as well as renewable and alternative sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, in order to fuel our economy, the United States will need more oil and natural gas while also requiring additional alternative energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently depends on foreign imports for more than half of its petroleum usage, and is the largest consumer of petroleum in the world, and U.S. dependence on overseas oil has created difficult geopolitical relationships with potentially damaging consequences for our national security; and

WHEREAS, oil deposits in the Bakken Reserves of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota are an increasingly important crude oil resource and contain an estimated 11 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil, and there is not enough pipeline capacity for crude oil supplies from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas to American refineries; and

WHEREAS, Canadian oil reserves contain an estimated 173 billion barrels of recoverable oil and Canada is the single largest supplier of oil to the United States at 2.62 million barrels per day and has the capacity to significantly increase that rate; and

WHEREAS, the original Keystone pipeline which spans across the northern part of Missouri supplies over 435,000 barrels of North American crude oil to American refineries in the Midwest; and the Keystone XL pipeline will, when completed, carry 700,000 barrels of North American crude oil to American refineries in the Gulf Coast region; and

WHEREAS, construction of pipelines linking North American energy to the United States will create hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide, including tens of thousands in construction and manufacturing, creating billions of dollars in economic growth and generating millions of dollars of government receipts; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the U.S. Department of Energy found that increasing delivery of crude oil from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Alberta, as well as Texas and Oklahoma, to American refineries has the potential to substantially reduce our country's dependency on sources outside of North America; and

WHEREAS, Canada sends more than ninety-nine percent of its oil exports to the United States, the bulk of which goes to Midwestern refineries; and oil companies are investing huge sums to expand and upgrade refineries in the Midwest and elsewhere to make gasoline and other refined products from Canadian oil derived from oil sands; and the expansion and upgrade projects will create many new construction jobs over the next five years and will add to the gross state product of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent of the money used to buy Canadian oil will likely later be spent directly on U.S. goods and services in contrast with increasing the trade relationship with unstable regions. Supporting the continued shift towards reliable and secure sources of North American oil is of vital interest to the United States and the State of Missouri:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby support continued and increased development and delivery of oil derived from North American oil reserves to American refineries and hereby urge Congress to: support continued and increased development and delivery of oil from Canada to the United States; enact legislation deeming the Keystone XL pipeline to be in the national interest of the United States; and ask the U.S. Secretary of State to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project to ensure America's oil independence, improve our national security, reduce the cost of gasoline, create new jobs, and strengthen ties between the United States and Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.