October 5, 2016

Energy Supply Chain Industries and Workers Support Dakota Access Pipeline Completion

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In your 2015 State of the Union Address you said:

“21st century businesses need 21st century infrastructure -- modern ports, stronger bridges, faster trains and the fastest internet. Democrats and Republicans used to agree on this.”

We still do. And that is why we are so concerned about the unprecedented actions of three federal agencies that joined together to withhold an easement from the Dakota Access Pipeline. This 1172 mile pipeline, which is more than 60% complete, would bring almost a half million barrels a day of domestic crude oil to market in an environmentally safe and efficient manner. This project has endured more than two years of federal review and has received more than 200 federal permits. More than 99% of the project is on private land, all rights of way have been obtained, and it has been fully approved by all four states it traverses. The project was challenged in federal court and upheld in an exhaustive 58 page opinion.

Yet, within minutes of the judge’s opinion three federal agencies issued a statement indicating the last and final federal approval—an easement pursuant to a permit which had already been granted by the same federal agency—was being withheld.

Mr. President, this is not how our country should operate. The Dakota Access Pipeline has undergone a rigorous and well established environmental and regulatory review. It has already invested $2.5 billion in construction capital, employing almost ten thousand highly skilled, highly paid workers. To arbitrarily preempt that process, as these agencies have done, is not only grossly unfair, it will have a chilling impact on the willingness of developers in all fields to commit time and capital to the construction of the infrastructure our nation so vitally needs.

The undersigned organizations, representing companies and workers who build and supply America’s energy infrastructure, urge you to direct those agencies to release the easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline immediately.

Sincerely,

Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance

Toby Mack, President & CEO
American Council of Engineering Companies
David A. Raymond, President  CEO

American Gear Manufacturers Association
Matthew Croson, President

American Rental Association
John McClelland, Vice President, Government Relations

American Supply Association
Michael Adelizzi, Executive Vice President

Associated Equipment Distributors
Brian P. McGuire, President & CEO

Associated General Contractors of America
Stephen Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer

Distribution Contractors Association
Robert Darden, Executive Vice President

The Association for Hose and Accessory Distribution
Joseph M. Thompson, Executive Vice President

Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Darrell Smith, Executive Vice President