

ANDERSON OPENING STATEMENT:

Good morning, my name is Steve Anderson, a concerned citizen and part owner of a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business based in Knoxville, Tennessee. I would like to begin by thanking the sub-committee for this opportunity, as well as thanking my President for the courageous decision he made to deny the Keystone XL pipeline. Frankly, as a political conservative and a long-time registered Republican, I don't often agree with President Obama, but on this matter he absolutely got it right.

I strongly oppose the Keystone XL pipeline because it will degrade our national security. The critical element is simply this: the pipeline keeps our great nation addicted to oil, a dependence that makes us both strategically and operationally vulnerable. As a retired general officer with over 31 years of service, I believe I'm fully qualified to comment on both of these vulnerabilities.

This pipeline will keep us dependent upon outside energy sources to meet most of our energy needs. In reality, Keystone only addresses a symptom of our illness -- the source of our oil; it does nothing to cure the disease itself, which is our overreliance on oil. And, as nations like China and India continue to demand more oil themselves, competition will increase. Such international tension threatens the security and stability we enjoy today.

Additionally, continued carbon-based energy consumption drives CO2 emissions that may lead to climate change and increasingly catastrophic weather events. This potential instability puts us at risk as well.

Furthermore, the pipeline keeps us strategically vulnerable because our economy will remain petro-centric, and many thousands of companies developing clean energy technologies and providing renewable energy solutions won't grow capacity and capability as quickly as America needs. I believe Keystone will set back our alternative energy industry twenty years.

Two weeks ago I read that Dubai will invest \$2.7B in solar energy next year. Now Dubai is an emirate surrounded by the world's largest oil fields and their economy is 250 times smaller than ours, yet they are astute enough to see the consequences of an oil-dependent economy and are willing to invest now in renewable energy in a huge way. Why aren't we?

And because we are not fully committed to developing renewable energy capabilities, our soldiers in harm's way are operationally vulnerable, too.

Serving for 15 months as General Petraeus' senior logistician in Iraq, I struggled with the challenge of providing 3M gallons of JP8 fuel every day to sustain our forces. I saw the huge impact of not having any renewable energy systems and being completely dependent upon oil-based power generation.

In consideration of the fully burdened cost of fuel in the combat zone, taxpayers have been spending well over \$30B annually for our fuel needs. And now that Pakistan has cut off our access to Afghanistan, it will be even higher this year.

But the dollar cost doesn't concern me as much as the human cost. Over 1,000 American troops have been killed during our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan executing fuel missions – we should all be outraged over this loss of life.

And to make matters worse, our oil addiction is empowering our enemy. Our long supply lines provide thousands of convenient targets, and the revenues from satiating our oil habit provide our enemy the resources to kill us.

Imagine the benefits to our military if they were fighting a much less capable enemy... Imagine leveraging solar, wind and geothermal technologies to end the war sooner, save billions of dollars and soldier lives.

Allow me to also comment on the jobs issue associated with this pipeline. As a former soldier, I am extremely concerned about the high unemployment rates of our veterans. Of course, I want more employment opportunities for my brethren, but they need jobs with staying power – they need careers. America is best served by an economic climate that generates jobs for vets for 100 years, not just 100 days. And for every job the pipeline produces, a clean energy economy could produce a thousand.

Bottom Line, this pipeline feeds an addiction that makes us less secure and enables our enemies. Now is the time to make hard choices and deal with this disease head on – and put our future economic prosperity in the capable hands of Middle America rather than Big Oil.

I stand before you today absolutely convinced that the national mission focus that put a man on the moon 42 years ago can once again prevail. Stopping this pipeline today will help set the conditions needed such that our innate American will to win and entrepreneurial drive will succeed in breaking our terrible addiction to oil.

Thank you again for inviting me here today and I look forward to your questions.

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