

## **DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL**

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January 18, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Statement of Paul Mathews of Dakota Resource Council On Denial of Keystone XL Permit**

COGSWELL—Denying the current TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline application is the right decision because of legitimate concerns about the route in light of the company's poor safety record to date.

The original Keystone pipeline system, which is within 2,000' of my house, sprung more than a dozen leaks on US soils in the first year of operation. The worst was a 500-barrel spill that shot a geyser of oil some 60 feet in the air and resulted 20,000 gallons in less than an hour on the ground in this North Dakota county.

Before approving any more tar sands pipelines, the administration must make sure they won't leak like the original one where leaks can potentially contaminate the land and water we need to sustain life. At minimum the regulators, like ND PSC, should complete their formal investigation of that leak to verify leak detection systems were operating properly, were adhered to and report if those systems are adequate to preserve the ND environmental heritage that all citizens mutually find important. This respect is due to all the US landowners, who under current laws face eminent domain, because they ultimately shoulder the burden of risk of a hazardous pipeline. Otherwise, those citizens are resigned to submission to a private foreign corporation's primal desire for its own profits.

The world's thirst for oil does not justify society being reckless in its production or distribution.

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