

**Statement by Lyle Quick**  
**Pipeline Safety News Conference**  
**March 17, 2009**

Good morning. My name is Lyle Quick and I'm the moderator for this news conference.

I'm a member of the Northern Plains Resource Council and a former McCone County Commissioner.

Northern Plains Resource Council is a grassroots conservation and family agriculture group that organizes citizens to protect Montana's water quality, family farms and ranches, and our unique way of life.

I'm joined by phone with David Niemi with Dakota Rural Action in South Dakota and Dan Kramer with Landowners for Fairness in Nebraska.

Each of these landowner groups has sent a letter to their respective governors. We're asking Governors Brian Schweitzer, Michael Rounds, and Dave Heinemann to protect residents of their states from the unfair risks of oil spills that could result if TransCanada receives a special exemption from U.S. safety laws for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

TransCanada has applied for a special permit from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The special permit would let TransCanada operate the proposed Keystone XL pipeline at a higher percentage of the pipe's maximum operating pressure than any other existing oil pipeline.

In effect, the permit would let TransCanada use thinner, cheaper steel in areas not considered "High Consequence Areas." "High Consequence Areas" include railroad crossing, highways, river crossings, and "High Population Areas." The three of us don't live in high population areas, nor do most of the landowners along the proposed route through Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

We have asked Governors Schweitzer, Rounds, and Heinemann for their help in opposing the special permit for the pipeline and to insure that TransCanada uses the safest available materials and practices in building, operating, and monitoring the pipeline in rural and populated areas alike.