

Again, I didn't have to dig back into the history books for these quotes, Mr. Speaker. This comes from April of this year, the last time the President had an opportunity to move America forward with energy security, move America forward with job creation, and provide certainty to our friends to the north, Canada, as they try to utilize their natural resources. The Democratic Senator from North Dakota said "absolutely ridiculous."

Senator MARY LANDRIEU, the Senator from Louisiana, also a Democrat:

This decision is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I don't mean to trot out all of the Senators and all the Democrats, except that I happen to be a House Member and I happen to be a Republican. And so I could understand if someone were to point the finger of blame and say: The only reason you share these positions, Congressman WOODALL, is because you are a conservative Republican, and this is not good for America; this is just conservative Republican mantra.

We all know that is nonsense. It is not conservative. It is not liberal. It is not Democrat. It is not Republican. It is American. It is economic. It is about security.

I will go one more, Mr. Speaker. Senator MARK BEGICH from Alaska:

I am, frankly, appalled at the continued foot-dragging by this administration on the Keystone project.

North Dakota, which would be a competitor—North Dakota has lots of economic resources there, lots of choices they can make, "absolutely ridiculous." Democrat from Louisiana, "unnecessary and unacceptable." Democrat from Alaska, "appalled at the continued foot-dragging."

So why can't we move forward? I don't know what the agenda is at the White House that has caused the 5-year delay that the North Dakota Senator calls ridiculous. I don't know what it is at the White House that has caused the delay that folks call appalling and unacceptable, but we have an opportunity to come together and do this.

We focus so often in this town on issues that divide us. This is an issue that unites us, and it unites us not just across party lines, not just across Chambers back and forth, but also across the divide of politics.

I have labor unions here on the board, Mr. Speaker, because sometimes folks say, and I hear it back home from time to time, they say: Rob, it is probably some of those special interest groups. It is those special interest groups that are preventing the President from doing what he wants to do. You know, those special interest groups have so much power in Washington, D.C. They are always changing things.

Terry O'Sullivan, union president, said, "This is once again politics at its worst," condemning the decision not to move forward on the Keystone XL pipeline. Again, not from 5 years ago, not 4

years ago, not 3 years ago, just this year, Mr. Speaker, folks continue to be frustrated.

Sean McGarvey, union president:

Firstly, it is unbelievable to me why this project is allowed to linger while our Nation's economy struggles to get back on track.

Mr. Speaker, there is no choice that says prohibit Canada from developing their resources. There is no choice that prevents Canada from developing their resources. The question is, once developed, who benefits? If you don't believe that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to go look at the Energy Information Agency's Web site, eia.gov. They track all of the energy use in this country, energy production and energy costs, and what you see is as the war on coal has continued at the White House, is that coal consumption in America is on a steady downward slope. You declare war on coal, you use your phone and your pen to prohibit folks from using coal, making it economically unsustainable to use coal, you can absolutely collapse coal consumption in America. We are the Saudi Arabia of coal. We have more coal than any other nation on the planet. The White House absolutely can commit itself to unilaterally disarming America when it comes to energy security, declaring a war on coal.

But if you go to the EIA Web site, the Obama administration Web site, Energy Information Agency, what you will see is, while those regulations have absolutely collapsed U.S. consumption of coal, U.S. exports of coal are going right through the roof. Mr. Speaker, you don't have to look far to find out that India and China are building new coal-fired power plants at the rate of four per week—four per week.

Now, I want you to find the absolute greenest person in your district, Mr. Speaker. I want you to find that person who bleeds green, biggest environmentalist you can find, Mr. Speaker, and I want you to ask him, when it comes to burning coal, when it comes to burning oil, when it comes to using America's fossil fuels, the world's fossil fuels, who is going to burn it cleaner, America, China, or India? Because if the discussion we are having, Mr. Speaker, is how do we protect the planet that we all share, how do we nurture the environment for which we are concerned, the answer is to make sure those resources are utilized here.

If you want to export something, export clean-burning natural gas. It will be tougher for folks to screw that up around the globe. The environment is a global environment, and if you care about doing things in the safest possible way, shipping coal to China or India for consumption is not the right answer.

Billions of dollars are invested in pollution controls on power plants across this country, Mr. Speaker. We will burn it cleaner and better than anyone else on the planet, and yet the regulatory environment is driving that con-

sumption overseas. It is bad for the environment, not good for the environment.

The Keystone XL pipeline, Mr. Speaker, "politics at its worst," say the labor unions. "Unbelievable," say the labor unions. "Absolutely ridiculous," says a Democratic Senator. "Unacceptable," says a Democratic Senator. "Appalled," says a Democratic Senator, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what you find in your district. My district wants us to stop figuring out who to blame for it and start figuring out how to fix it. My district wants us to focus on those things that we can do together that will make a difference in people's lives back home. My constituents believe it really is jobs, jobs, jobs, not as a political tag line but as a mission statement for how to make America's economy great once again.

The Keystone XL pipeline is supported by the left and by the right, by the House and by the Senate, by the media and by the interest groups. The only place it cannot find support is in the west wing of the United States White House.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the President will listen to the American people; I believe that the President does want to make this country strong; and I believe, if constituents in each one of our districts across this country apply their collective pressure to the White House, that it will respond. I have to believe that because that is the only way America works. It is the only way America works.

Commentator after commentator after commentator says the Keystone XL delay is politics at its worse. Commentator after commentator after commentator says delay is costing American families much-needed jobs.

We can do better for the American people, Mr. Speaker. We must do better for the American people. Working together, I think we can convince the White House of that message, but that process begins right here.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TIPTON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the birth of his granddaughter.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.