

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE
APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act (S. 1). Despite no evidence suggesting that Congressional intervention is needed, this is the second time this Congress that the Republicans are bringing forward a bill to sidestep federal requirements and approve TransCanada's application for the Keystone Pipeline. I oppose this legislation and support the ongoing federal review of the environmental, safety, and economic impacts of this application to determine if this pipeline is truly in our national interest.

The Keystone XL pipeline would transmit oil 1,700 miles from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada across the U.S. to the Gulf of Mexico where it would be refined and exported to global markets. According to federal law, the State Department must complete an environmental review of all cross-border projects of this magnitude. The State Department requested comments on Keystone XL by February 2, 2015 from the Pentagon, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Departments of Energy, Justice, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, and Homeland Security. The EPA released their public comments on this day stating that the recent trend of global decline in oil prices should be factored in on whether to approve Keystone XL pipeline. The State Department needs the time to thoroughly evaluate the EPA and other agencies' comments.

In Minnesota, this project has the potential to negatively impact our economy. The Keystone XL pipeline would divert Canadian oil that now flows to refineries in Minnesota and the upper Midwest to the Gulf of Mexico. Diverting oil away from Minnesota could result in job losses at our refineries. Respected oil economist Philip Verleger wrote an op-ed published in the Star Tribune in March 2011 stating that in his expert opinion the oil diversion will diminish supply, resulting in an increase in the cost of oil and food for Minnesotans and the rest of the Midwest. In fact, he states the country as a whole would end up paying nearly \$5 billion more for oil than we do today if the pipeline is built. Other economists have estimated that the pipeline will result in the creation of only 50 permanent jobs nationally.

President Obama has stated that he will veto this legislation because S. 1 sidesteps the process for deciding whether a cross-border pipeline serves the national interest of the American people. I support the President's decision to veto S. 1. The precedent of forgoing our national due diligence in order to benefit of a foreign company is irresponsible. The American people deserve an adequate review is conducted. Trading dubious economic benefits for potentially disastrous environmental consequences and higher costs for Minnesota families and small businesses is simply not a trade I am willing to make.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act and instead bring a bill to the House floor that works to strengthen the middle class.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #77—YEA.

Roll Call #78—AYE.

Roll Call #79—NAY.

Roll Call #80—YEA.

REMEMBERING DEAN SMITH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dean Smith, one of North Carolina's most admired and accomplished citizens, who passed away on February 7, 2015. Dean Smith will long be remembered for his successes as head coach of the men's basketball team at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1961 until his retirement in 1997. The statistics are dazzling: two national championships, 11 Final Four appearances, 17 Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season titles and 13 ACC tournament titles, 8-times ACC Coach of the Year, and Head Coach of the gold-medal winning USA Olympic Basketball team in 1976. He retired with 879 victories, which was the NCAA Division I men's basketball record at that time.

Behind these statistics is the coach of whom his long-time rival Coach Mike Krzyzewski of Duke University said, "He was one of a kind . . . one of the greatest basketball minds and a magnificent teacher and tactician." The tributes that have come forth from his players uniformly praise his lifelong loyalty to them and his excellence as a mentor. "He was more than a coach," recalled Michael Jordan, "He was my mentor, my teacher, my second father. Coach Smith was always there for me whenever I needed him and I loved him for it. In teaching me the game of basketball, he taught me about life."

Dean Smith was also a powerful force for good in the community, working actively and courageously for civil rights and equal justice throughout his life. I have known Dean since my student days at UNC, when he was an assistant coach and an active member of Binkley Baptist Church, a fledgling congregation focused on social justice. His sister, Joan Ewing, managed my district office for eight years, and his daughter Kristen was on my campaign staff. I was honored to join his family at the White House in 2013, when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The intervening years mark an unparalleled career, a life well-lived, and thousands of lives positively shaped and influenced.

With Dean Smith it was not a matter of a celebrity endorsing worthwhile causes; Dean was there all along. Long before he was a national figure, in 1958, he accompanied an African-American friend to a restaurant in Chapel Hill, thereby breaking down the barrier of segregation. Much later, when long-time Binkley

Baptist pastor Robert Seymour told the story to Washington Post reporter John Feinstein, Coach Smith expressed some irritation: "I wish he hadn't done that." "Dean," the reporter replied, "you should be proud of doing something like that." Dean Smith looked him in the eye, "John, you should never be proud of doing the right thing. You should just do the right thing."

This story captures the essence of what Dean Smith was about. Mr. Speaker, I have selected three complementary pieces to fill out this exceptional story, and I ask that they be included in the record.

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 9, 2015]

DEAN SMITH LEAVES A LEGACY FAR BEYOND
SPORTS
(Editorial)

Jerry Stackhouse, the former basketball All-America for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, remembered his former coach, Dean Smith, with a personal anecdote that had little to do with coaching or a game. He recalled that years after he left Smith's program, he would send his financial records to Smith.

Dean Smith, who died Saturday night at the age of 83 after several years of declining health, did that for a lot of former players, famous and, more often than not, not famous. He found them jobs, called if a child was sick, counseled them through personal crises.

And he did more. Long before integration was common in North Carolina, Smith and his minister and a young African-American student walked into a Chapel Hill restaurant, sat down and ate dinner. Chapel Hill was thereafter integrated. He did, in effect, the same with the men's basketball program, bringing in Charles Scott as the first black player. Today, Scott remembers that Smith always called him "Charles," because that was his name and his preference, in contrast to the more sports-friendly Charlie.

GENUINE AND GENEROUS

He lectured governors on what he believed to be the heinous wrong of the death penalty. He endorsed liberal politicians. He did not like criticism, but he did not fear it.

He contributed to charities, believing in the dignity of others and the obligation to share. He was a sportsman, a thinker, a theologian.

And, yes, he was one of the greatest coaches in the history of sports, all sports. His records and his innovations (the four-corners offense, the huddle at the foul line before shots) will be exhaustively documented in the next days, as the coach is widely mourned.

But so many who played for him, and so many who never played for him or even met him, will remember first his humanity and his genuineness.

For he was the most decent of men. It was bred in him at birth, as his parents taught him the value of all, and they lived those values themselves, pushing for integration of the races in Kansas when that was not a common much less a popular cause. Young Dean Smith learned well, and he, too, lived those values all his life.

If one talked to him about his upbringing, asked the question, "Coach, where did your views on life and values come from?" he would go back to Kansas and his parents, both public school teachers. In 1934, his father coached the Emporia High school team to a state championship, with the first black player ever in the Kansas state tournament.

TIME FOR EVERYONE

Though Smith held strong opinions, he understood that those who didn't agree but