



MONTANA STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
IN AFFILIATION WITH
THE NATIONAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR – CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

President - John W. Roeber ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Secretary/Treasurer – Jim Ryan*

**Testimony of President John Roeber on Keystone XL Pipeline Project
Submitted to the U.S. Department of State on October 7, 2011
Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, Washington D.C.**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is John Roeber. I am the President of the Montana State Building & Construction Trades Council. I represent eleven labor organizations and four regional trade councils in the state of Montana, with a membership of more than six thousand Montana union members. These members are the skilled craftsmen that perform the work of digging ditches, producing and laying base material, bending and laying pipe, welding pipe sections, transporting materials, and much more.

The jobs crisis is the number one threat to our struggling economy. It demands action now. The Keystone XL pipeline project is a jobs creator in the industries of construction, manufacturing, and maintenance. It offers an extraordinary opportunity for hundreds of Montana's skilled tradesmen and women. The Keystone XL will provide approximately eight hundred good-quality construction jobs in Montana that pay wages that will support a family with healthcare coverage and defined-benefit pensions. It will also create dozens of permanent jobs when the pipeline is in operation. Because TransCanada has already signed a project labor agreement with the trade unions, we know that the job segment in Montana will employ Montana workers.

In addition, it will provide a much needed infusion into the tax base for rural Montana counties, which will benefit those communities in numerous and lasting ways. Through the Keystone XL, TransCanada will pay \$62 million in Montana property taxes. These taxes will provide needed support to rural counties and school districts.

In total, TransCanada will invest \$1 billion into the Montana segment of the project. This economic boost will support main street Montana jobs, as well as significantly increase the potential for new job creation for small businesses along the path of the pipeline.

In terms of energy, Americans consume more than we produce. Utilizing oil produced in Canada provides unparalleled national security when compared to utilizing oil from the volatile Middle East. Canada has always been a trusted U.S. ally. There is no question that the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is a matter of national security.

The Montana Building & Construction Trades Council also supports construction that utilizes the best available technology and standards for both the safety of workers and the environment including the 57 additional considerations and protections that exceed the requirements of regular permitting that were established by the Department of State. I applaud TransCanada for agreeing to this very responsible approach to the Keystone XL pipeline project.

At the public meeting on this project in Glendive, Montana, the Montana State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Al Ekblad testified on behalf of 44,000 Montana union members that the Montana labor movement stands in strong support of the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

I urge the issuance of the Presidential permit to get this project underway without delay.