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June 8, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

Thank you for your June 6, 2011, announcement that the Department of State would conduct additional public meetings concerning the Keystone XL pipeline permit application in each of the 5 states along the proposed pipeline route. As I have made clear, I remain concerned that the proposed route unnecessarily places Nebraska's Sand Hills region at risk.

You may recall that I wrote to you on May 9, 2011, and asked that you consider sending staff to the Sand Hills region. I suggested in addition that field hearings in the area would benefit your Department's ongoing environmental review. In light of yesterday's announcement, please consider holding the forthcoming Nebraska public meeting in - or in close proximity to - the Sand Hills region in Nebraska. A quick flight to a more urban meeting location in Nebraska may not give your team a full appreciation of the fragile and unique qualities of the Sand Hills region. Such a location may also be too far from home for many interested Nebraskans to attend.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mike Johanns
United States Senator

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