



KEY VOTING THE NEW REPUBLICAN SENATE: Volume 1

S.1, THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Republicans Vote with Special Interests Instead of Hard-Working Americans

Republicans made their first order of business in the new Congress a bill to authorize construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline – a single project for the benefit of a Canadian oil company instead of hard-working Americans. Over the course of the Keystone debate in the Senate, Democrats offered a number of amendments to improve the bill for the middle-class. Unfortunately, Senate Republicans voted AGAINST common-sense middle-class economic proposals. Here are the results:

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Senate Republicans voted against thousands of domestic steel and iron workers, in favor of importing foreign manufactured goods, meaning fewer jobs and fewer paychecks for America’s hard-working families. Led by Senator Franken (D-MN), Senate Democrats introduced Amendment #17 to require the use of iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the United States in the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline and facilities. Republican Senators voted in favor of foreign oil companies, rather than hardworking American steel and iron workers. The lone Republican Senator to vote for this amendment was Senator Burr of North Carolina, who proudly said his decision was “real simple.”

VOTE – #17 was defeated by a roll call vote of 53-46. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)

Senate Republicans voted to allow *export of* the Keystone XL oil instead of keeping it here in America to lower energy prices for the middle-class. Led by Senator Markey (D-MA), Amendment #13 would ensure that oil transported through the Keystone XL Pipeline into the United States is used to reduce United States dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

VOTE – #13 was defeated by a roll call vote of 57-42. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Senate Republicans did the bidding of special interest polluters by voting to exempt coal refuse power plants from the Clean Air Act. Senate Republicans voted on the Toomey Amendment #41 to roll back important Clean Air Act protections that can prevent thousands of premature deaths, heart attacks, and asthma attacks, and millions of lost work and school days per year.

VOTE – #41 was defeated by a roll call vote, 54-45. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Senate Republicans voted against 100 hard-working Nebraskans who stand to lose their property to eminent domain by TransCanada. Led by Senators Menendez (D-NJ) and Cantwell (D-WA), Amendment #72 ensures private property cannot be seized through condemnation or eminent domain for the private gain of a foreign-owned business entity. On the same day that a group representing landowners in Nebraska released a letter to Leader McConnell asking for his support of the Menendez-Cantwell Amendment, Republicans voted overwhelmingly against this critical protection.

VOTE – #72 was defeated by a roll call vote 54-43. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)

Senate Republicans voted to exempt TransCanada from paying taxes in the U.S. Wyden Amendment #27 would clarify that products derived from tar sands are crude oil for purposes of the Federal excise tax on petroleum. Simply put, Republicans voted to ensure TransCanada could use American land for the pipeline without paying taxes.

VOTE – #27 was defeated by a roll call vote 50-47. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Senate Republicans voted for a blank check to Big Oil to export American natural gas overseas. Senator Cruz's (R-TX) Amendment #15 would allow expedited exporting of liquefied natural gas to all member countries of the World Trade Organization. This amendment would mean higher costs for U.S. natural gas and bigger economic burdens for hard-working American families and energy consumers.

VOTE – #15 was defeated by a roll call vote of 53-45. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)

Senate Republicans want to shield TransCanada's campaign contributions from public disclosure. Senator Whitehouse's (D-RI) Amendment #148 would require persons or corporations who would stand to benefit from Keystone XL pipeline profits to fully disclose their political spending – including electioneering communications, independent expenditures, and issues ads. In an effort to track political spending and provide more public accountability, this amendment would shed light on the impact that corporate and “dark money” has in shaping environmental policy.

VOTE – #148 was defeated by a roll call vote of 52-44. [Click here to see how Republican Senators voted.](#)