



April 11, 2014

Sent via facsimile

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write in support of the request of Senators Barbara Boxer and Sheldon Whitehouse that the U.S. Department of State conduct a comprehensive study of the health impacts of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, including a review of the available peer-reviewed research on the health impacts from the processing of tar sands.

Our organizations support the concept of “health in all policies” and the consideration of potential health impacts in all decisionmaking. There is an increasing recognition that the environments in which people live, work, learn and play have a tremendous impact on their health. The administration will certainly benefit by having a clear understanding of how the proposed Keystone XL pipeline could impact the public’s health, including the health of our most vulnerable citizens.

The full spectrum of health considerations are often overlooked in important decisions and their omission can lead to policies and practices that are unnecessarily harmful to public health. We thank you for your consideration and strongly urge you to respond positively to the senators’ request for a comprehensive study of the health impacts of this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Georges Benjamin, MD
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Pestronk". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most legible part.

Robert M. Pestronk
Executive Director