



Texas Office ★ 1303 San Antonio St., Austin, TX 78701 ★ 512/477-1155 ★ www.citizen.org



July 26, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515 Dear Representative,

On behalf of our thousands of Texas members and in the interest of the American public, we write to ask you to vote against H.R. 1938 by Rep. Gene Green and Rep. Lee Terry. This misguided resolution would reduce review for a proposed pipeline through the Ogallala Aquifer and the agricultural heart of the country. In the shadow of the BP oil spill and on the heels of the pipeline spill in Montana's pristine Yellowstone River, this is the wrong solution at the wrong time.

It has been demonstrated that, contrary to the authors' intent, the approval and construction of this pipeline would enable the Canadian tar sand exporters to manipulate U.S. markets by bypassing competing Midwest refineries, thereby leading to **increased gas prices** for American consumers and particularly for farmers in the Midwest. This analysis does not come from opposition groups, but from oil industry economist Dr. Philip Verleger and from documents submitted by TransCanada, the company proposing to build the pipeline, to the Canadian government.

The tar sands oil that would be transported through this pipeline is some of the dirtiest in the world, containing three to four times as much carbon, five times as much lead, six times as much nitrogen, and 11 times as much sulfur as is found in conventional crude oil. Many of these pollutants would be released during the refining process in Texas.

While this might appear to some to be an economic trade-off worth considering, a major issue is that the oil is being transported to the Gulf of Mexico to make it available for export. In other words, Texans would bear the burden of the pollution, but the oil would either supply our global competitors or be priced equivalent to the export market set primarily by the OPEC nations.

The attached fact sheet provides a more detailed review of these problems with H.R. 1938. We ask that our members of Congress vote against this ill-advised policy and allow a full review of this pipeline to proceed.

Respectfully,

Tom "Smitty" Smith
Texas Office Director, Public Citizen

Karen Hadden
Director, SEED Coalition

Trevor Lovell
Director, ReEnergize Texas