



## **AG STRANGE JOINS 20 OTHER AGS IN PETITION FOR EXPANSION OF KEYSTONE OIL PIPELINE**

(MONTGOMERY) – Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange has joined with the Attorneys General of 20 other states in a petition asking U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to recommend a permit for the expansion of the Keystone Pipeline project to transport oil from Canada to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico region of the United States. The State Department is currently reviewing an application for a Presidential Permit for Keystone XL, an expansion of the existing Keystone Pipeline.

In a letter to Secretary Kerry, the Attorneys General state that “the project, when approved, will bolster the nation’s economy, modernize the country’s energy infrastructure, and strengthen our national security.” The Attorneys General assert that “the pipeline will significantly serve our national energy needs by providing primary transportation for the development of Canadian oil reserves. It will also facilitate the safe transport of oil from the burgeoning Bakken oil field in North Dakota and Montana. Each attribute will add to the country’s energy independence and to the economy of the entire midsection of this nation.”

In their petition, the Attorneys General provide facts in support of expanding the pipeline, noting that 36 percent of the oil imported by the U.S. comes from politically unstable countries that may or do have anti-democratic or anti-American agendas; that the U.S. has a long friendship with Canada which possesses vast oil reserves; that the U.S. and Canada share an integrated energy infrastructure which would be made more efficient by Keystone XL; and that the expansion would create jobs and boost the sales of American goods and services.

“Whereas, approval of Keystone would thus reduce dependence on oil imports from suppliers who are inherently unstable, shield our country from threats to its security, and assure and sustain America’s economic recovery; We the undersigned American Attorneys General, petition John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State, to move expeditiously to recommend approval of the Keystone XL pipeline project, which has been seeking a presidential permit since 2008,” concludes the petition that was sent on August 9 by the Attorneys General of Alabama, North Dakota, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Missouri, Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Louisiana, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Virginia.

--30--

