

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT AUTH

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman DEANNE C. DEFUCCIO

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

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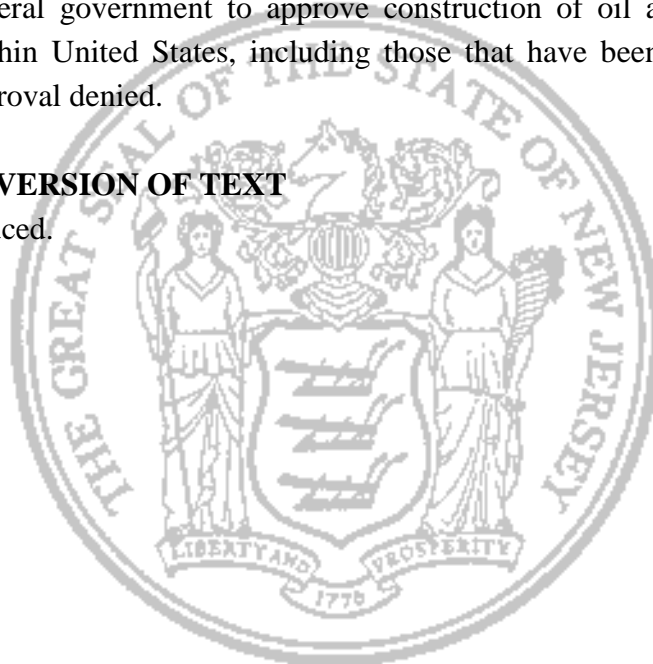
Assemblymen Wirths, Clifton, Assemblywoman McCarthy Patrick, Assemblyman Rooney, Assemblywoman Sawyer, Assemblymen McGuckin, Catalano, Bergen, Scharfenberger, Barranco, Rumpf, DiMaio, Thomson, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblymen Simonsen, McClellan, Assemblywoman Matsikoudis, Assemblymen Umba, Space, Assemblywomen Piperno, Eulner, Assemblyman Peterson, Assemblywoman Flynn, Assemblymen Dancer and S.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Urges federal government to approve construction of oil and natural gas pipelines within United States, including those that have been shut down or have had approval denied.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the federal government to
2 approve construction of oil and natural gas pipelines, including
3 those that have been shut down or have had approval denied.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The United States relies, and will continue to rely for many
6 years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel despite the recent focus on
7 renewable energy and alternative sources of energy; and
8 **WHEREAS**, In order to fuel the country’s economy, the United States
9 will need more oil and natural gas while also requiring additional
10 alternative energy sources; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Constructing more pipelines within the United States
12 would help the country achieve greater energy independence and
13 enhance national security by reducing reliance on energy from the
14 Middle East, Russia, and Venezuela; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Oil from the Middle East, Russia, and Venezuela comes
16 with increased price volatility and requires partnerships with
17 unstable regimes and leaders with competing political interests; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Constructing more pipelines within the United States
19 would also result in lower oil prices and provide a significant
20 economic advantage to the United States; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Pipelines are the safest way to transport fuel and are also
22 the most environmentally secure method of doing so, as they emit
23 far less pollution than the alternatives of trains or trucks; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The Congressional Research Service, within the Library of
25 Congress, estimates that transporting crude oil by pipeline is
26 significantly more cost-effective than the transportation of crude oil
27 by train or truck; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The construction and operation of new pipelines would
29 provide much-needed employment for citizens of the United States;
30 and
31 **WHEREAS**, The United States has achieved significant levels of energy
32 independence in recent years, with domestic production of
33 petroleum accounting for 94 percent of domestic consumption in
34 2019 and net imports reaching their lowest level since 1954; and
35 **WHEREAS**, As oil reserves are dwindling in several major oil
36 producing countries, the United States maintains the tenth largest
37 proven oil reserves in the world and Canada maintains the third
38 largest according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration
39 with 98 percent of the oil exported by Canada in 2019 being sent to
40 the United States; and
41 **WHEREAS**, On March 29, 2019, President Trump issued a Presidential
42 Permit to begin construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which
43 would have connected the United States oil supply to oil fields in
44 the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin in Alberta, providing oil
45 to the United States at a rate of up to 830,000 barrels per day; and
46 **WHEREAS**, Securing and fostering a mutually beneficial trade
47 relationship with Canada, one of this country’s strongest allies and
48 neighbors, with regard to these oil supplies, would have increased
49 the country’s energy independence, lowered the cost of gasoline,

- 1 produced up to 11,000 high-paying jobs for United States citizens,
2 and resulted in more stable trade relationships; and
3 **WHEREAS**, On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed an executive
4 order to revoke the permit for construction of the Keystone XL
5 Pipeline; and
6 **WHEREAS**, Halting the construction and operation of the Keystone XL
7 Pipeline and other large pipelines can result in global economic
8 consequences; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia, has forced the
10 United States, and other European nations to impose strict
11 economic sanctions on Russia, including decertifying the Nord
12 Stream 2 Pipeline; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The Nord Stream 2 Pipeline stretches for 1,200 kilometres
14 from Vyborg, Russia through the Baltic Sea to Lubmin, Germany
15 and was designed to carry natural gas from Russia to Western
16 Europe; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The decertification of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline will
18 result in severe economic losses and minimize Russia's geostrategic
19 control over European nations through its supply of gas, however, it
20 will likely also lead to global economic consequences; and
21 **WHEREAS**, It is more important than ever for the United States to
22 increase its energy independence; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Based on the geopolitical, energy security, environmental,
24 and economic benefits of oil and natural gas pipeline construction
25 within the United States, it is in the country's, and by extension
26 New Jersey's, best interests to support the construction of oil and
27 natural gas pipelines, including the approval of pipelines that have
28 been shut down or disapproved, within the United States; now,
29 therefore,
30
31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
32 Jersey:
33
34 1. This House urges the federal government to take action to
35 approve the construction of oil and natural gas pipelines within the
36 United States, including approving pipelines that have been shut
37 down or disapproved.
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39 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
40 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
41 President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and
42 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
43 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the
44 Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, and every
45 member of Congress elected from this State.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges the federal government to take action to approve the construction of oil and natural gas pipelines within the United States, including approving pipelines that have been shut down or disapproved.

The United States relies, and will continue to rely for many years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel despite the recent focus on renewable energy and alternative sources of energy. In order to fuel the country's economy, the United States will need more oil and natural gas while also developing additional alternative energy sources. Constructing more pipelines within the United States would help the country achieve energy independence and enhance national security by reducing reliance on energy from the Middle East, Russia, and Venezuela. Constructing more pipelines within the United States would also result in lower oil prices and provide a significant economic advantage to the United States.

Although the United States has achieved significant levels of energy independence in recent years, there is always room to improve the country's energy independence. Steps have been taken to create greater North American energy independence, including the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would have connected the United States oil supply to oil fields in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin in Alberta, providing oil at a rate of up to 830,000 barrels per day. The Keystone XL Pipeline would have increased the United States' energy independence, lowered the cost of gasoline, produced up to 11,000 high-paying jobs for United States citizens, and resulted in more stable trade relationships. President Trump issued a Presidential Permit to begin construction on the cross-border segment of the Keystone XL Pipeline, however, the permit for this construction was revoked by President Biden. The reapproval and continued construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline is very important for the energy independence of the United States.

In addition, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has resulted in global tension and fear. The United States and other European nations have responded by enforcing strict economic sanctions on Russia. One of the sanctions is the decertification of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, which stretches for 1,200 kilometres from Vyborg, Russia through the Baltic Sea to Lubmin, Germany and was designed to carry natural gas from Russia to Western Europe. The decertification of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline will likely also have global economic consequences. It is more important than ever for the United States to become more energy independent.

Based on the geopolitical, energy security, environmental, and economic benefits of oil and natural gas pipeline construction within the United States, it is in the country's, and by extension New Jersey's, best interests to support the construction of oil and natural gas pipelines, including the approval of pipelines that have been shut down or disapproved, within the United States.