

Notable Moments from Alberta Premier Jason Kenney's Keystone XL Press Conference

The following excerpts are pulled from Premier Kenney's [1/20/21 press conference](#) in which he addressed the Biden Administration's decision to rescind the permit for the Keystone XL border crossing between Canada and the U.S.:

- *"As friends and allies of the United States, we are deeply disturbed that one of President Biden's first actions in office has been to rescind the presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline border crossing. This is a gut punch for the Canadian and Alberta economies. Sadly, it is an insult directed at the United States' most important ally and trading partner on day one of a new administration. Today, as I speak, over two thousand women and men have lost their jobs, are heading home from good-paying union jobs, as a result of this decision."*
- *"Let's be clear about what happened today. The leader of our closest ally retroactively vetoed approval for a pipeline that already exists, and which is co-owned by a Canadian government, directly attacking by far the largest part of the Canada-U.S. trade relationship, which is our energy industry and exports."*
- *"This decision was made without even giving Canada the opportunity, respectfully, to make the case for how Keystone XL would strengthen U.S. national and energy security, that how it would bolster both economies, and how our two countries could find a path together on climate and environmental policy."*
- *"We're being told that this decision was made over concerns about climate policy, but the U.S. State Department's exhaustive analysis that was conducted under President Obama's Administration concluded that Keystone XL would actually reduce CO2 emissions, as the alternative will be to move this energy by higher-emitting and less secure rail transport."*
- *"TC Energy has made tremendous progress in bringing on board First Nations on both sides of the border as potential equity partners, that this project has had enthusiastic support of major U.S. unions, including several that were active supporters of President Biden's campaign. It has the support of all state governments along the pipeline route. And in a large poll recently sponsored by Alberta's government, it indicates that 71 percent of voters, including the majority of Democrat Party voters, support construction of the Keystone XL project, and that number only goes up when people find out the construction is underway, and the border crossing is in place."*
- *"If, however, the U.S. government refuses to open the door to a constructive and respectful dialogue about these issues, then it is clear that the Government of Canada*

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must impose meaningful trade and economic sanctions in response to defend our country's vital economic interests."

- *"I was very disappointed to see Foreign Minister Garneau say that we should 'understand and respect this decision.' To see Ambassador Hillman in Washington say that we should 'accept it and move forward.' And for the Prime Minister merely to say that he was disappointed. Now, let me compare this to the quite appropriate and strong response of Canada's government to efforts by the last president to undermine Canada's vital economic interests. You'll recall that former President Trump campaigned on ripping up NAFTA. But the Canadian government did not 'accept that and move forward.' They did not 'understand and respect' that decision, they fought it."*
- *"President Trump campaigned on imposing steel tariffs and aluminum tariffs on foreign imports to the United States. That was his campaign commitment. The position of the Trudeau government wasn't to 'accept that and move forward,' it was not to 'understand' that position of tariffs and to respect the decision, as they've said today, it was to fight it."*
- *"Surely, hundreds of thousands of energy workers deserve at least as strong a defense from their national government as that government gave to Canadian steel workers in central Canada and elsewhere. So that is what I'm calling on the Trudeau government to do, which is to seek to enter into a respectful dialogue about energy, the environment, how this safe, job-creating project can operate in that context and, failing that, to demonstrate that Canada will stand up for itself against this uncalled-for attack against our country's vital economic interests."*
- *"When you're dealing with a trading partner who attacks your vital interests, in this case retroactively canceling critical infrastructure which is co-owned by a Canadian government and thereby imposing very real financial and economic damage on our country and our province, then a response is called for. Because otherwise it invites similar decisions in the future."*
- *"Just because a foreign government gets elected on a promise to hurt our economic interests, does not mean we can or should accept the damage inflicted by foreign government policies."*

– Alberta Premier Jason Kenney

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