

Labor Reacts to President Biden's Executive Order on Keystone XL

Labor's support for the Keystone XL project has been broad. Unions signaled their displeasure with President Biden's executive order revoking the project's permit, noting that the move puts thousands of union workers out of work and strains our relationship with Canada.

United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA)

"In revoking this permit, the Biden Administration has chosen to listen to the voices of fringe activists instead of union members and the American consumer on Day 1. Let me be very clear: When built with union labor by the men and women of the United Association, pipelines like Keystone XL remain the safest and most efficient modes of energy transportation in the world. Sadly, the Biden Administration has now put thousands of union workers out of work. For the average American family, it means energy costs will go up and communities will no longer see the local investments that come with pipeline construction."

- Mark McManus, UA General President, via [statement](#)

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

"The Teamsters strongly oppose yesterday's decision, and we would urge the administration to reconsider it. This executive order doesn't just affect U.S. Teamsters; it hurts our Canadian brothers and sisters as well who work on this project. It will reduce good-paying union jobs that allow workers to provide a middle-class standard of living to their families. America needs access to various forms of energy that can keep its economy running in the years ahead. This decision will hurt that effort."

- Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa, via [statement](#)

North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU)

"Environmental ideologues have now prevailed, and over a thousand union men and women have been terminated from employment on the project."

- NABTU President Sean McGarvey, via [statement](#)

PREVIOUS SUPPORT

NABTU, IUOE, NAM, and UA Joint Letter

"If this union project is blocked, workers and families will lose a huge opportunity. Renewable energy goals would be set back, 1,000 union jobs would vanish in the cold of winter and in the middle of a pandemic, and the promise of the 10,000 jobs required to build this project would disappear."

- NABTU, IUOE, NAM and UA joint [letter](#) to then President-elect Biden

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North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU)

“This will help to meet KXL’s commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2023, create the power capacity required to operate the pipeline from renewable energy sources and create thousands of jobs between now and 2030 – jobs for the highly skilled women and men of the building trades.”

- NABTU President Sean McGarvey, via [statement](#)

“At a time of economic uncertainty, this will create thousands of jobs on both sides of the border, creating opportunities for underrepresented groups, including Indigenous peoples, all along the KXL route.”

- Canada’s Building Trades Unions (CBTU) Executive Director Sean Strickland, via [statement](#)

International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)

“The awarding of 2021 U.S. construction contracts shows the continued momentum behind Keystone XL. The dedicated members of the Operating Engineers are eager and ready to build this critical piece of modern North American energy infrastructure to the highest quality standards... The 8,000 American union jobs that come with 2021 construction is welcome news and irreplaceable as the U.S. continues our economic recovery.”

- IUOE General President James T. Callahan, via [statement](#)

“This project will put hundreds of Local 49 members to work throughout the duration of this project. Not only will this stimulate the local economy and create local jobs, it also means that by our members building this pipeline, it will be built safely and to the highest standard. Our members have fought hard to make this project a reality and we’re ready to get to work.”

- Local 49 Business Manager Jason George, via [statement](#)

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