

President Obama declared in a 2013 climate speech that Keystone XL would need to pass a "climate test," which means the pipeline must not significantly exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions. From the State Department to prominent research institutions to the findings of climate and energy experts, the scientific evidence is overwhelming that Keystone XL passes the president's climate test -- and with flying colors.

OVER A YEAR LATER, IT'S ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THE KEYSTONE XL PASSES PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE TEST:

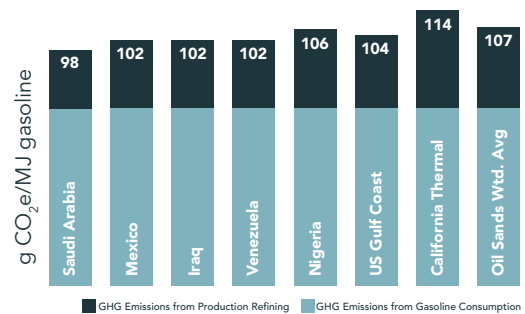
The United States State Department: On January 31st, 2014, the State Department released its [Final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)](#). As with the previous four statements, the State Department found, once again, that Keystone XL would have a negligible impact on the environment.

IHS CERA: IHS CERA released [a report](#) finding that Keystone XL will have "no material impact" on greenhouse gas emissions. The report states that heavy crude oil will be refined in the U.S. Gulf Coast refineries regardless – but without Keystone XL, much of that crude will be imported from Venezuela instead of Canada. As the report states, Venezuela will be "the number one beneficiary of a negative decision" on Keystone XL. In a subsequent [report](#), IHS CERA found that the United States has increased imports of Canadian oil sands by 75 percent from 2005 to 2012. Yet, despite the influx of Canadian oil sands, "The GHG emissions rate for the average crude oil consumed in the United States was unchanged between 2005 and 2012."

Climate Scientists: [David Keith, a Canadian climate scientist at Harvard](#) said, "The extreme statements — that this is 'game over' for the planet — are clearly not intellectually true..." [David Victor, a climate-policy expert at the University of California](#) explained, "As a serious strategy for dealing with climate, blocking Keystone is a waste of time. But as a strategy for arousing passion, it is dynamite."

Energy Experts: International Energy Agency (IEA) chief economist [Fatih Birol](#) said that "it would be definitely wrong to highlight [oil sands] as a major source of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide." Energy and

Keystone XL & the Oil Sands: Comparable GHG Emissions



Oil sand crude has been refined in the U.S. for decades and has **similar GHG emissions** to other heavy oils refined in the U.S. on a well-to-wheels basis

(IHS CERA and Jacobs Consulting)

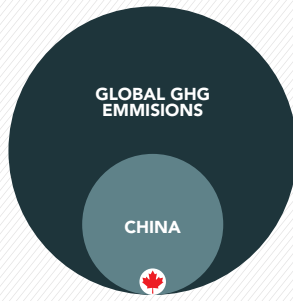
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climate expert [Michael Levi](#), [Ted Nordhaus](#) and [Michael Shellenberger](#) of The Breakthrough Institute, energy expert [Dan Yergin](#), and Stanford University emeritus professor [Burton Richter](#) have all given devastating critiques of opponents' climate claims.

Obama administration officials: Former Secretary of the Interior [Ken Salazar](#) and former Obama U.S. Geological Survey chief [Marcia McNutt](#) have endorsed Keystone XL. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy exposed Keystone XL opponents' claims as false when she said that Keystone XL [won't affect](#) EPA's work on climate [and](#) "If there's oil there, someone will find it and use it." And, as the [Washington Post reported](#) "many government officials privately back the project on the grounds that it would expand the oil supply the U.S. would receive from a trusted ally, as well as bolster our relationship with Canada more broadly."



Keystone XL & the Oil Sands: Emissions Here or There?



Canada accounts for only 2% of global GHG emissions. Emissions from oil sands are a very small fraction of that. **China**, an immediate potential market for oil sand crude without Keystone XL, is the world's largest emitter of GHG emissions at 25%.

(United Nations Statistical Division)

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- [New York Mag's Jonathan Chait](#): "So, what public policy reason is there to block the pipeline? There really isn't one. Indeed, the environmentalists' obsession with Keystone began as a gigantic mistake."
- [Washington Post](#): "Environmentalists are fighting the wrong battles...the activists ought to pick more important fights. Until they do, the president should ignore their pressure." (3/4/2013)
- [Washington Post](#): "Environmentalists have drawn a line in the sand on the Keystone XL pipeline. It's the wrong line in the wrong sand, far away from any realistic assessment of the merits — as yet another government analysis has confirmed. It's past time for President Obama to set aside politics and resolve this bizarre distraction of an issue [...] Fighting for good climate policy may be more difficult than waging a symbolic war against a lone pipeline. But the battle for policies that might actually work is the one to which environmentalists must devote their time, enthusiasm and money." (2/5/2014)
- [Chicago Tribune Editorial](#): "Will Obama OK the Keystone pipeline? The case for approving the pipeline: The 2,000-page draft report shows, convincingly, that the president's condition has been satisfied. The case is ready to be closed. Let's start putting people to work laying pipe."
- [Bloomberg](#): "[E]ven McKibben will admit, the battle over the Keystone XL pipeline is as much symbolic as it is practical. If the Alberta tar sands are mined, the carbon levels in the atmosphere would increase by only 0.02 percent, according to TransCanada. The fact that McKibben and his organization have made the proposed pipeline the bête noire of the entire environmental movement—and the litmus test by which they vow to judge President Obama's integrity on the environment—seems arbitrary."
- [Nature](#): "[R]egarding the Keystone pipeline, the administration should face down critics of the project, ensure that environmental standards are met and then approve it. As Nature has suggested before, the pipeline is not going to determine whether the Canadian tar sands are developed or not." (1/29/2013)
- [New York Times](#): "But when it comes to the pipeline's true impact on global warming, energy and climate change experts — including former Obama administration officials — say Keystone's political symbolism vastly outweighs its policy substance..." "[T]he carbon emissions produced by oil that would be moved in the Keystone pipeline would amount to less than 1 percent of United States greenhouse gas emissions, and an infinitesimal slice of the global total." (4/21/2014)
- [New York Times Op-ed Contributor Joe Nocera](#): "In fact, [Keystone XL] should be a no-brainer for the president, for all the reasons I stated earlier, and one more: the strategy of activists like McKibben, Brune and Hansen, who have made the Keystone pipeline their line in the sand, is utterly boneheaded." (2/18/2013)