M ore than 200 people gave their testimony at a hearing—among them—on May 6, addressed to the U.S. State Department hearing on the proposed TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline in Grand Island on April 18. The hearing pitted the concerns of landowners and others who oppose the 1,200-mile pipeline carrying tar sand bitumen, against the interests of labor unions, oil industry lobbyists and some businesspeople.

"The Sandhills overlay the Ogal- la Aquifer, the largest aquifer of its kind in the nation," said John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union. "It is not only the source for the majority of our state's drinking water, it also supplies water for livestock. Running a potentially contaminating tar sands pipeline through our water supply is not only unnecessary, it is downright foolish."

A number of landowners also spoke out against the project, with many stating their principled position in light of the vast and unique ecosystems that exist on their properties. Speaking in favor of the project, Brigham McCown, former federal pipeline administrator and Former Governor George W. Bush, suggested it was a practical necessity. "Pipeline segments are by far the least cost manner to transport energy products in this country. And ladies and gentlemen, they transport two-thirds of all the energy supplies we use," he said. "Whether it's that plastic frack leak at that iPhone, that's how we use that energy. And we cannot turn our back on an infrastructure without understanding the legitimate concerns these things work."

Chad Gilbert of Pipeliners Union told 708 representatives of the project were problematic. "Why protest this job opportunity that my mem-" 

Stakes Run High at Keystone XL Pipeline Hearing in G.I.

Said one man, "It's as simple as renewables of energy. "Now, and when it is most effective to communicate with the citizens of a community about their values and life style choices and how their choices impact the sustainability of their commu- nity in the future?" How do we as citizens in a democratic society come to understand the necessity of balancing the requirements of the natural systems, socio-cultural frameworks, human technology and use, commerce, and governmental regula- tion and polices necessary for true sustainability to occur?"

According tojsisc.how can we get what we need. And we use," he said. "Whether it's that energy product, as opposed to what they have built in the United States," said Executive Director Jane Kleeb, whose group has been instrumental in real- izing opposition the pipeline. "What is driving this right is the fighting the basic fundamental American principle that our families have a right to own land without a foreign company coming in and taking it away."

And there are serious environ- mental concerns as well, she said. Kleeb questioned the scientific and thoroughness of State Department studies on such things as economic impacts, the project's approach to the likely risks, and the lack of any kind of effective emer- gency response plan, among other concerns.

"The most disturbing failure of the impact statement is that it does not analyze oil spill planning to Keystone XL specifically," said Paul Blackburn, an attorney who authored a 64-page report showing a severe lack of oil spill response equipment in Nebraska. "We have been given only very generic discussions and policies necessary for true sustainability to occur."

JISC joins Omaha Gives!

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JISC joins Omaha Gives! The Joslyn Institute is proud to be participating in Omaha Gives!—a 24-hour charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. The online bidding will take place from 9 a.m. on May 22nd to midnight. Mark your calendars because we will need your help!

We will be joining nearly 300 local nonprofits to raise money together and compete by raising funds and online money. The more money we raise, the larger percentage of the match pool we will receive. The more donors we get to give to us, the more likely we are to win an additional match pool. It is a community-wide event to show off Omaha's spirit of giving, raise awareness about local nonprofits, and collectively the effort takes to make this city great. Learn more at OmahaGives.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support of JISC. We are eager to see the Omaha community band together to give to JISC.

Latex Paint Exchange

If you have latex paint left over from your last project? Do you need latex paint that needs to be disposed of? Scottsbluff, Nebraska is holding a Latex Paint Exchange from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2012, in Scottsbluff at 530 West 38th St. in Lincoln.

"If you have usable latex paint to exchange, follow these guidelines:

• Be sure it is usable latex paint. Check the label if it reads clean up with acryl and water. It is:
  • Paint can be used up to 3/4 full.
  • Paint cannot have been frozen.
  • Paint must be water-based.
  • Labels must be readable.
  • No empty cans.
  • Paint can be drop-off paint, but anyone, including businesses, can take it.

EcoStores will dispose of unusable paint for $2/tub. Call (402) 477-3056 for more information.

Drought Best Practices

Despite recent precipitation, much of Nebraska is still facing dry conditions. As we head into spring, farmers and ranchers are planning how to best deal with the dry conditions. Conservation agencies including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are working together with farmers and ranchers as they get ready to hit the fields. Farmers with limited water resources, farmers and ranchers are turning to the NRCS and NRDs for expert advice and assistance to conserve water.

Both NRDs and the NRCS encourage farmers and ranchers to visit their local NRD or NRCS office for more information on general management tools and -cost share-that may be available to best help farmers and ranchers.

For more information, visit www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov or www.nrdnet.org.

Nebraska landowner Randy Thompson stands together with BOLD Nebraska's Executive Director Jane Kleeb, whose group has been instrumental in realizing opposition the pipeline. "What is driving this right is the fighting the basic fundamental American principle that our families have a right to own land without a foreign company coming in and taking it away."

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