



## Construction Industry Round Table

## Legislative News

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### **1/29/2015 – U.S. Senate Passes Long Delayed Keystone XL Pipeline Bill**

After years of delays, countless environmental studies, court cases, and political maneuvering, the U.S. Senate passed a bill today (62-36) authorizing the final phase of construction on the so-called Keystone XL Pipeline project. The Senate bill will now need to be reconciled with the House version, passed earlier in the month, before being sent on to the President for his signature. At this time, the White House has signaled it will veto the bill apparently based on “environmental concerns” – notwithstanding the years of studies that even the Obama Administration’s State Department conducted that concluded no substantial or appreciable environmental dangers existed from the project which was expected to support tens of thousands of jobs and cost approximately \$8.0 billion. While the Congressional votes in both houses were “bi-partisan,” neither margin was large enough to override a veto by the President; for example, it takes 67 votes in the Senate to override – which is five more than originally supported the legislation.