



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

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2/24/2015 – Keystone XL Pipeline Bill Vetoed by President

As has been widely reported, today President Obama vetoed the bi-partisan passed Keystone XL oil pipeline bill that would have set in motion a large infrastructure project – using private funding. The President gave no explanation for the veto other than to claim he was taking “seriously (his) responsibility to the American people” – while leaving the project in limbo after six-years of studies and court cases which have all sided with the pipeline’s construction. Of note, the building trades unions have allied with the design/construction community in support of the project moving forward. Notwithstanding, the President has insisted on blocking the construction, without a clear articulation of precisely why he doing so – leaving many to speculate that it is the direct result of influence from large donors that have competing financial interests to the pipeline. Vetoing a bi-partisan enacted bill (that currently lacks sufficient votes to override his action), will likely “chill” relations with a Congress controlled by the Republicans.