



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

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For Immediate Release
January 18, 2012

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Statement by
International Union of Operating Engineers General President
James T. Callahan
on
Obama Administration's Decision to Deny
the Keystone XL Pipeline Permit

Today's announcement by the U.S. Department of State to withhold approval of the Keystone XL pipeline is a blow to America's construction workers. As the sector hardest hit by the recession and one that still grapples with an unemployment rate of 16%, this project could have been a lifeline to thousands of unemployed Operating Engineers.

The IUOE is deeply disappointed in the Administration's decision. We will continue to work with our partners in labor and the industry to bring vital energy projects online and to create the kind of high-paying, skilled jobs that are so vital to our economy, our members and their families.

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The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) represents more than 400,000 members in 123 local unions across the U.S. and Canada, including operating engineers who work as heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors in the construction industry; stationary engineers in building and industrial maintenance; nurses and other health care workers; and public employees.