Dear Senators:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support override of President Obama’s veto of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.

As users of roughly one-third of our nation’s energy, manufacturers support an “all-of-the-above” approach to domestic energy production. Access to competitively priced energy helps manufacturers compete globally and preserves high-paying jobs here at home.

To that end, construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is critical for U.S. energy policy and economic growth. The pipeline could bring 830,000 additional barrels of crude oil to the market every day and would provide a critical outlet for crude in North Dakota and Montana to reach domestic markets. Nevertheless, more than six years after applying for a permit to build the pipeline, manufacturers are still waiting. Despite multiple State Department reports, environmental impact studies and hundreds of thousands of public comments, the fate of the pipeline remains in limbo.

If approved, it is expected that more than $7 billion will be spent to construct the full project, leading to tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs. These include not only construction jobs, such as welders, mechanics, electricians, pipefitters, laborers, safety coordinators and heavy equipment operators, but also thousands of jobs for manufacturing workers, who will make the steel pipe and the thousands of fittings, valves, pumps and control devices required for a major oil pipeline.

Every day permits are delayed, manufacturing jobs are lost, and manufacturers and their employees suffer. S. 1 ends the incessant delays associated with Keystone XL and approves the project. It deems the National Environmental Policy Act process complete and allows the project to commence construction. We urge your support.

The NAM’s Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on S. 1, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aric Newhouse