Rutland Herald

Two members of Vermont's congressional delegation are asking the State Department to investigate whether conflicts of interest tainted the review of a proposed crude oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Sen. Bernard Sanders and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch joined a dozen other senators and congressmen in citing "serious concerns" about the integrity of the review. They have asked the White House to withhold any decision on the project until the State Department's inspector general has completed a review of the project.

The company proposing the Keystone pipeline project, TransCanada, reportedly was allowed to screen private firms competing to perform an environmental impact study on the pipeline.

The 1,700-mile pipeline would carry more than half a million barrels of oil a day from Canada to refineries in Texas.