

[By Bob Kinzel](#)

(Host) Congressman Peter Welch is praising President Obama's decision to reject a plan to build a 2,000-mile oil pipeline from Canada to Texas.

When Congress passed a temporary extension of the payroll tax cut late last year, it also required the President to make a decision on the Keystone pipeline project within 60 days.

The President says he's rejecting the project because it hasn't had sufficient environmental review. Welch says Obama made the right decision:

(Welch) "Essentially the question for the President was whether he was going to be bullied legislatively into doing a complete end around the environmental review process and the Inspector general's review process about conflict of interest in the process. He couldn't capitulate on that and he did the right thing."

(Host) Welch says he has strong environmental concerns about this project and he notes that all of the oil is targeted for the export market:

(Welch) "It's not going to address America's energy needs. It's going to be a conduit for export by Trans Canada to Latin America and China. It's not going to solve our energy problem and it's going to contribute to our environmental problem so I'm a real skeptic of the benefits of the Keystone project."

(Host) Welch acknowledges that the proposed project could create as many as 6,000 jobs but he says these positions would be temporary and he argues that the environmental risks with the plan outweigh these short term employment gains.

The calendar may change without notice. (Bills get a first reading when they're introduced. If there's a second reading, a bill is debated and approved or rejected. If it's approved, it gets a third reading, which is a final vote.)