FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AOPL SUPPORTS SENATE CROSS-BORDER PERMITTING REFORM BILL

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) expressed support for the Senate-introduced North American Energy Infrastructure Act of 2014, which would reform the delay-plagued cross-border permitting program for energy infrastructure such as pipelines.

“The Senate cross-border permitting reform bill will help benefit American workers with new pipeline manufacturing and construction jobs and American consumers with the bounty of our North American energy production renaissance,” said Andy Black, AOPL President and CEO.

The bill, introduced today by Sens. Hoeven, Donnelly, Murkowski and Manchin, would provide much needed statutory authority and accountability from Congress for the cross-border permit review and approval process, ensuring projects are reviewed in a timely manner after all appropriate land and environmental reviews are completed. Projects currently under review by the administration under Presidential executive order have faced years of delay, including nearly 6 years of review in the case of the Keystone XL pipeline project.

Under the bill, all existing laws and environmental review requirements are left untouched and in place. The bill merely ensures that after all applicable current reviews are completed, the State Department must conduct and complete its national interest determination within 120 days. With the bill limited to our strong allies of Canada and Mexico and North American trade firmly established under NAFTA, there should be no question that energy infrastructure projects crossing U.S. national borders should receive prompt State Department approval.

A companion version of this bill, cosponsored by House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton and Rep. Gene Green, passed the House in June by a bipartisan vote of 238-173.

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