

(WASHINGTON)-- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) released this statement today upon learning of the State Department's decision not to issue a permit to begin construction on the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada, before the February 21st deadline:

"It is absolutely irresponsible that the President would block a project such as the Keystone XL pipeline - a project that industry experts say would create at least 20,000 American jobs and be essential in helping jumpstart the American economy. This decision today is further evidence that President Obama is not serious about setting the conditions for job creation nor working towards our energy independence as it relates to our national security. Once again, President Obama has shown that his reelection and pandering to his left wing liberal environmental base is more important than securing the future for our nation. The ramifications of this utterly disturbing politically motivated decision will be far and wide. Congratulations China."

###