

As a Sister of Mercy, who has made a commitment to Earth, I supported your decision a few weeks ago to reject the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline. Now I am concerned about reports that you are promising to "take every step possible to expedite the necessary federal permits" for a shorter segment of the pipeline between Cushing, OK, and Port Arthur, TX.

Dozens of Sisters, co-workers, and college students participated in rallies and actions against the proposed pipeline at state hearings and at the White House over many months last year.

I am concerned that the Oklahoma-Texas portion of the Keystone XL pipeline carries the same risks of oil spills on American water and soil, increases the risk of unleashing "dirty" tar sands oil and takes us away from discussions about developing cleaner, alternative energy.

Please make sure that the Department of Transportation and the Army Corps of Engineers do not cut any corners in evaluating this project, and consider its full impacts on the climate.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.