Big Oil has embraced the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL tar sands pipeline as its cause célèbre. This isn’t surprising given the billions in oil profits at stake, but it’s important to get to the truth behind their claims. Very simply, the pipeline is a scam.

- **Oil Profits and Oil Influence.** With billions in profits at stake, the oil industry is pulling out all the stops to get Keystone XL built. TransCanada alone spent $1.3 million in lobbying in 2011, and pro-pipeline members of the House of Representatives took $12 million from the oil industry in 2010–2011. Millions more have gone to pro-pipeline special interest groups like the American Petroleum Institute and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as well as other lobbyists and political operatives, to make Keystone XL their #1 priority.

- **Exports and Energy Insecurity.** Tar sands oil is largely destined for export. Retired Brigadier General Steven Anderson said it plainly: “The Keystone XL pipeline will not reduce America’s dependence on Middle East oil, or do anything to get us off oil completely, which is key to America’s national security future.” An increase in fuel economy of just 2.5 mpg would completely eliminate the need for all the oil carried by this pipeline.

- **Dirtiest Oil on Earth.** Tar sands crude contains massive amounts of heavy metals and cancer-causing toxins and must be pumped at extreme temperature and pressure. TransCanada’s Keystone 1 pipeline had 12 spills in its first 12 months of operation. Spills on Keystone XL would pollute waterways, destroy farmland, and put drinking water at risk along the entire 1,700-mile route.

- **Drawing the Line at Tar Sands.** The Sierra Club welcomes the attention that the fight over Keystone XL has brought to the question of America’s energy future. We challenge the idea that the oil industry is entitled to throw open this massive source of carbon pollution. We’re fighting to prevent the worst-case scenario and to avoid the worst consequences of climate disruption. The Keystone XL pipeline will unequivocally fail the “national interest” test in a fair review of the science, the costs, and the risks. Stopping Keystone XL and the exploitation of the Alberta tar sands is a major priority for the Sierra Club. That’s why we are working to stop this project and to move America Beyond Oil.