



Pipeline doesn't benefit farmers

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October 18, 2017

Being a born and raised in Nebraska, I am offended by the smug and condescending opinion in last Friday's paper. We are not ill-advised farmers, we are farmers who believe we own our land and no foreign dirty tar-sands company should have eminent domain over our property.

We are in a climate crisis, the last time there were six category 5 hurricanes was 1851. Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have been devastated by hurricanes. Ninety-eight percent of climate scientists say the extensive use of carbon fuels such as tar-sands is the main cause of the climate disasters. When will we respect the research of climate scientists the same way we respect our doctors?

Michael Whatley worked to defeat low carbon fuel standards dating back to 2009. Corporate front group "think tanks" play a key role in Whatley's writings. Two of them are the Cato Institute and the Heritage Foundation both funded by Koch industries. Their main purpose is to make more money for themselves and to heck with the consequences to us Nebraskans and the world.

The safety records of pipelines are dismal. The pipeline to the north and east of Nebraska had 14 leaks in 12 months. The 2010 Kalamazoo River pipeline rupture and spill in Michigan still has not been cleaned up. Nor has the pipeline spill in Mayflower, Arkansas, or the many huge pipeline leaks in North Dakota. Most have gone undetected until much damage is incurred.

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Per government estimations KXL pipeline will create between 35 and 50 Nebraska jobs. There will be more during the construction period that will also include trained Canadians, not untrained Nebraskans.

KXL benefits TransCanada, Koch industries and major oil companies, not the Nebraskan farmer. Please Nebraska Public Service Commission say no to KXL.