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Issues: Energy-Environment-Health – Keystone XL Pipeline- opposed

Dear Senator Casey:

You know I have been a passionate advocate for a national policy that connects the environment, our health and our energy systems. You have spoken on these issues several times at conferences I have convened as the Legacy of Rachel Carson, and I know you share many of my concerns. I am writing to implore you to stand on principle to stop investing in fossil fuel infrastructure that carries our policies further from a meaningful transition to renewable and sustainable energy systems. I am asking you to stand against the Keystone XL Pipeline.

We live in a transition time, a perilously fragile period when we may yet stave off devastating changes in our climate due to combustion of fossil gas, coal and oil. These fuels and the way we burn them are outdated, inefficient and totally destructive to our life support systems. Taxpayer subsidies heavily favor fossil fuels at \$7.2 billion compared to \$1.3 billion for renewable systems, conservation and efficiency improvements combined. It is time to stop caving in to the industries that are vested in extracting fossil fuels. They represent the last thrashings of the dinosaurs and left to take as much out of the ground as possible as fast as possible and sell for the highest price possible, they will make the remaining tenure of man on this Earth nasty and brief.

With the money to be invested in the Keystone XL Pipeline, we could super-insulate existing houses and commercial buildings, subsidize solar installations on public buildings, and establish solar and wind manufacturing facilities. We could choose to revise the Federal Power Act of 1935 to shift incentives for utilities from central station generating plants that use 1865 technology to distributed generation systems that place the power aligned with the load and offer new utility services such as storage, load leveling and earth tube geothermal systems. We could build a sustainable non-carbon based energy system for the next generation and lead the world in technology to do so. A renewable and sustainable energy system creates millions of local, permanent jobs. And the fuel is free from the sun and the wind and the Earth. We have yet to capture the value of the Earth's life support system in our computations of economic value. So we waste the trees, wetlands, watersheds, fertile farmland for the sake of oil and fossil gas and coal. We fight to restrain the

impetus to use renewable systems, capping renewable contributions to the utility mix, restraining locations in ways that we do not for mountaintop coal removal. Impose cosmetic zoning restrictions in ways we do not to limit industrial production even in national and local parks and wilderness areas! We hamper innovation while subsidizing continued fossil fuel use.

We have acquired technical knowledge to extract and burn fossil fuels beyond the carrying capacity of the atmosphere and oceans to absorb the products of combustion. We are reversing in two hundred years the processes that took one million years to form our oxygen rich atmosphere and neutral oceans. We have yet to apply the wisdom to select technologies that preserve the functions of the natural world. Technology will not save us. Only the wisdom to speak for those unborn whose life support system we are squandering will save our Earth as a human habitat. Please think of your children's great-grandchildren. Please think of the importance of your strong voice in the Senate, and vote no on the Keystone XL Pipeline. There are no jobs worth this perversion of our future.

I ask you as my representative in the Senate to vote NO on this unnecessary infrastructure investment.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. DeMarco, Ph.D.