

Krauthammer off base on Keystone XL pipeline

Posted Feb. 2, 2014 @ 12:01 am

Charles Krauthammer's Jan. 25 [column on Obama's Keystone XL pipeline decisions](#) misleads readers. Krauthammer says if Canada can't build a pipeline south, they'll build it west, implying Obama's decision is holding up their selection of which pipeline to build. Actually, Canadians along the Pacific coast refuse to let their government build a pipeline to the Pacific coast to ship tar sands oil to China because they don't want tar sands fields pollution, pipeline leak dangers, and air/water pollution in port cities. If Krauthammer thinks it's in U.S. interests for this pipeline to bring tar sands oil to the Gulf coast for shipment overseas, then let him urge Congress to enact a carbon tax to subject tar sands oil to a carbon tax. When the oil enters our country, Canadian producers would pay US carbon taxes reflecting the environmental cost of using that oil. Then Congress can be the heroes by making the carbon tax revenue-neutral and rebating it to American households. The carbon tax would spur U.S. development of clean energy at cheap prices, and the household rebate would help Americans cope with climate-change related price increases. Also, President Obama wouldn't be able to use climate change as a reason to reject the pipeline, and Republicans wouldn't be able to complain that he is dragging his feet on Keystone and issuing too many EPA regulations. Let Congress take the reins with a carbon tax.

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