

Keystone XL 1

DJB

1/28/2021(ThursPM/FriAM)

Business and economic development officials in central Arkansas are voicing their disapproval of President Biden's executive order halting construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Officials with the Port of Little Rock and the state Department of Commerce spoke about the order in a meeting of the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee today (Thurs). Little Rock Port Authority Executive Director Brian Day says the cancellation will affect industries beyond those directly involved in the pipeline's construction.

News01

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"...long-lasting impact."

The port's largest company, the Indian pipe-maker Welspun, had received an order for over 1 million feet of pipe to go toward the Keystone XL Pipeline in August. The company announced at the time that would provide steady work for about 500 employees. President Biden issued the executive order halting the controversial project on his first day in office.

Keystone XL 2

DJB

1/28/2021(ThursPM/FriAM)

Local officials say President Joe Biden's executive order halting construction on the Keystone XL Pipeline could have an economic impact in Arkansas. The 11-hundred-mile pipeline from Canada to Nebraska had been delayed during the Obama Administration, then allowed to continue under former President Donald Trump. Rajesh Chokhani (re-JESH cha-KAH-nee) is chief operating officer of Welspun, an Indian pipe manufacturer with a presence at the Little Rock Port. He says his company, which had a contract to build over 1 million feet of the pipeline, won't be the only one that suffers from its cancellation.

News02

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"...period of time."

Arkansas Commerce Secretary Mike Preston says a steelmaker in Northeast Arkansas is also being impacted by the president's order to stop construction of a wall on the border with Mexico, which was championed by former President Trump.