

Dear Attorney General Abbott:

I am a Texan asking for your help.

I am concerned about the safety of citizens and the rights of landowners living near facilities that are transporting diluted bitumen (aka "dilbit" or tar sands) crude. I am immediately concerned about the Keystone XL pipeline that will be in full operation on January 22nd. I do not believe that Keystone XL has been adequately inspected by the federal agency charged with this duty -- the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. I am also concerned about the transport of tar sands through the repurposed Seaway and Pegasus pipelines and the plans to place a rail classification yard through richest farmland in Texas, the Brazos River Bottom.

Texas landowners are doing all they can to protect their private property rights, their land and water. But where is our state leadership?

Citizen leaders from all parties and political persuasions have respectfully asked Lt. Governor Dewhurst and House Speaker Straus order an interim study and public hearings on eminent domain abuse, public safety and protection of waterways related to tar sands transport. So far, they have remained mute on this subject.

I am counting on you to step in and I know you can.

I am respectfully now appealing to you to use the full arsenal of your constitutional, statutory, and common law powers to protect our property rights and the health and safety of our families by:

1. Demanding that the federal government conduct due diligence on safety inspections of the Keystone XL before start up on January 22, or to otherwise delay its operation.
 2. Informing officials throughout East Texas that they must make adequate safety plans for a breach of tar sands, which poses significantly more hazards to life, air and water than what TransCanada is telling officials is coming through their pipeline -- that would be just "crude oil."
 3. Use the power of your office to end the use of eminent domain for private gain and to prevent its use solely to obtain discounts from real world values and to avoid liability from pipeline disasters.
- I appreciate your time and hope to hear from someone in your office.

Respectfully,