

**Lance: Final Environ. Report Clears Path For Keystone Pipeline**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) has issued the following statement on the release of the U.S. State Department's final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Keystone XL pipeline.

A final environmental review on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline has found its impact on the climate would be minimal, according to media reports. Reports state that the U.S. State Department found the Canada-U.S. oil pipeline would not greatly increase climate change.

"The fifth and final environmental report on the Keystone XL pipeline should remove any doubts surrounding the Keystone XL project," said Rep. Lance, a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. "The project will create American jobs and American energy and reduce North America's dependence on foreign oil. It has bipartisan support in Congress and the backing of labor and business alike. After enduring more than five years of review, red tape and delay, there is no reason left for the President not to approve this project immediately. It's time to build the Keystone XL pipeline."

**County Joins in Homeless Pop. Census**

COUNTY — Union County once again has participated in the national Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless, a national census of homeless persons. The count was conducted from the night of January 28 to the morning of January 29.

The program is mandated nationally by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Union County it is a volunteer-assisted effort coordinated by the Union County Department of Human Services. Personnel from the office of Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich also assisted.

The Elizabeth walk-in outreach event was coordinated by the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless at 119 Division Street on January 28. The Plainfield event was coordinated by the Salvation Army on January 28.

In addition, a special Union County initiative called "Union County Street Count" took place on January 29. During these hours, Union County provided shelter to anyone found homeless on the streets.

Federal regulations require an annual count of homeless persons in conventional shelters and a biannual count of persons sheltering outdoors or in other unconventional locations.

One new program in Union County is the Code Blue Homeless Emergency Shelter Initiative. Launched in 2007, Code Blue puts county and local resources on a coordinated alert during cold weather events to ensure that persons needing shelter are located and can be transported to shelters.

In Union County, the count included 371 homeless family households, totaling 1,222 persons. Another 526 individual homeless persons were also counted, for an overall total of 1,648 persons.



**Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics**

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

**Groups Comment on Obama State of Union**

A number of groups released statements following President Barack Obama's State-of-the-Union address on January 28. They are as follows:

*Roslyn M. Brock, Chairwoman of the NAACP Board of Directors:*

"Tonight we heard President Obama issue a call for action that creates economic opportunity in his State of the Union Address. President Obama challenged Congress to follow his lead and increase the minimum wage to give America a raise. He also urged lawmakers to create opportunities for citizenship through comprehensive immigration reform. The President called on all Americans to work hard, take responsibility and get everyone health insurance to secure a more prosperous future."

*NAACP Interim President Lorraine C. Miller:*

"President Obama put himself in the shoes of the American public and addressed the bread and butter issues that we all face. From raising the minimum wage to job training, the President brought the issue of economic inequality front and center and offered practical solutions to close the gap. President Obama has embraced the social justice movement that is moving across this nation and has boldly called on all Americans to do the same. The NAACP will heed his call and continue to be leaders in the effort end the inequalities that have plagued our nation for centuries."

*The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP):*

"The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) applauds President Obama for recognizing the nation's teachers and principals for their hard work to improve schools and student performance in his 2014 State of the Union address. NAESP also supports the President's call for investing in and expanding high-quality pre-kindergarten and early childhood education, and many of the priorities he put forward to improve higher education and technology program enhancements, including connecting 20 million students in 15,000 schools through modernization of the E-Rate program. As the President pledged to 'take steps without legislation to expand opportunity for more American families,' NAESP encourages the President to act swiftly over the coming months to shift federal policies to better support schools and reinforce the authority and autonomy of principals..."

*Rick Manning, vice-president of public policy and communications, Americans for Limited Government.*

"...Washington, D.C. area will be shoveling another round of global warming with schools, local, state and federal government delays and closures... In the State of the Union, the President did some heavy shoveling of his own. In a vintage Obama campaign speech that was heavy on rhetoric and short on specifics... Obama's speech wasn't about supporting American heroes who have put everything on the

line for the country they love. Instead it can be encapsulated by his presumption that, 'Most Americans want for Congress to focus on their lives.' Nothing could be further from the truth, and it is this core misunderstanding of the American public that explains the chasm between Obama's vision for our nation and that of those who love personal freedom without government interference.

"In his speech, Obama pointed to a pizza owner who voluntarily raised the wages of his workers believing that he could still make a profit on his pies even with the higher labor costs. That is that employer's personal choice to make and it might or might not prove to be a successful business risk. What the President apparently does not understand is that it is a choice that many local employers cannot make as they struggle with increased costs due to Obamacare and other price increases that directly impact their bottom line.

"Here is how a minimum wage increase really works. The price of items that a shop produces or sells cannot be raised above what purchasers are willing to pay. If an employer is forced by the government to increase the cost of labor, this forces either a price increase or cuts elsewhere in the company, including making up for the minimum wage increase through layoffs... Unfortunately, politicians like Obama live in the unreal world of government where you can always just spend other people's money to achieve your ends..."

"Not shockingly, the President also had the audacity to claim responsibility for the dramatic increase in private sector natural gas and oil production... "In a nutshell, Obama and his cronies have actually harmed domestic energy production through their policies and to claim any credit for the results of the vision, sacrifice and economic courage of those who are driving our nation's fossil fuel energy renaissance is nothing less than a cynical manipulation... Never missing the chance for making a gender-based appeal, Obama went to great lengths to call for equal pay for equal work for women. It will be interesting to see if the main stream media points out that in Obama's White House, women staffers are paid only 87 percent of what their male counterparts are. Perhaps before this president lectures the rest of us, he should stop discriminating against women workers himself..."

*TPath:*

"The man who presently sits in the oval office armed with a pen and a phone is at the forefront of the most subtle and effective coup in the history of the world. As a result, this nation finds itself in a very threatening situation. While our citizens are distracted by the unemployment numbers and ObamaCare, the anti-American coup has been escalating and the final nails in America's coffin are being hammered in daily. The question is: will we voluntarily lie down in the coffin regressives have fashioned for this nation or will we rise up and defend what is rightfully

ours?...Some of the disturbing points made in Obama's Illegal Army, are related to the unconstitutionality of Obama creating a civilian national security force under his exclusive control in HR3590 - otherwise known as the "Affordable Care Act..."

*John W. Whitehead, The Rutherford Institute.*

"What was striking about this year's State of the Union address was not the sheer arrogance of the President's remarks, the staged nature of the proceedings and interactions, or the predictable posturing of the rebuttals, but the extent to which the members of the various branches of government — President Obama, Congress, the Supreme Court, and the assorted government agencies — are just one big, bawling, noisy, semi-incestuous clan... No matter what the President and his cohorts say or how convincingly they say it, the reality Americans must contend with is that the world is no better the day after President Obama's State of the Union address than it was the day before... What the President failed to mention in his State of the Union address, however, is the fact that it's the government that poses the gravest threat to our freedoms and way of life, and no amount of politicking, parsing or pandering will change that."

**Jeans Named Marshal of County St. Pat's Day Parade**

UNION — The 2014 Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee has announced that Robert E. "Bobby" Jeans Sr. of Kenilworth has been named Grand Marshal of the 18th Annual Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Mr. Jeans, a decorated Vietnam veteran and retired Kenilworth Police Department lieutenant, has been involved with the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade for many years. A member of the Union County Emerald Society and the Nugent Association, he also belongs to several civic and veterans groups. He is well known for being active in the community as well as serving as the Commander of VFW Post 2230. He also runs the Kenilworth Veterans.

"On parade day I will be celebrating my heritage and my family," Mr. Jeans said. "I will be marching in honor of all proud Irish Americans."

Mr. Jeans traces his Irish roots to County Cork. He is looking forward to sharing the day with wife Lenore, his son Robert Jr., his daughter Stacie Kathryn and grandchildren McKenna, Emerson and Declan as they march down Morris Avenue. Mr. Jeans will be officially installed as Grand Marshal this Saturday, Febru-

**Accreditation Team to Visit County Sheriff's Office**

COUNTY — A team of assessors from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) will arrive on Sunday, February 23, to examine all aspects of the Union County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, management, operations and support services, Sheriff Ralph Froehlich has announced.

"Verification by the team that the Union County Sheriff's Office meets the Commission's 'best practice' standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence," Sheriff Froehlich said. "Having been previously certified by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) and recognized by CALEA, I look forward to re-accreditation."

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling (908) 527-1843 on Monday, February 24 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Telephone comments are limited

to five minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the NJSACOP standards. A copy of the standards is available for inspection at the Union County Sheriff's Office, located at 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth. The local contact is Sergeant Patrick Hora, who can be reached at (908) 527-4420.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Union County Sheriff's Office's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to write: New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 11000 Lincoln Drive West, Suite 12, Marlton, N.J. 08053, or e-mail Accreditation Program Manager, hdelgado@njsacop.org or by phone (856) 334-8943.

The Union County Sheriff's Office must comply with 100 standards in order to achieve accredited status.

"Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs," Sheriff Froehlich said.

Accreditation is valid for a three-year period during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, through its' New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the State of New Jersey. For more information regarding the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, please write the Commission at New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation.

**Christie Responds to Wildstein Allegations**

TRENTON — The Christie Administration has responded to a letter from David Wildstein's lawyer, Alan L. Zegas of Chatham, published Friday in *The New York Times* that "evidence exists... tying Mr. Christie to having knowledge of the lane closures (in Fort Lee), during the period when the lanes were closed, contrary to what the Governor stated publicly in a two-hour press conference."

"Mr. Wildstein's lawyer confirms what the Governor has said all along — he had absolutely no prior knowledge of the lane closures before they

happened and whatever Mr. Wildstein's motivations were for closing them to begin with," according to the administration's statement. "As the Governor said in a December 13th press conference, he only first learned lanes were closed when it was reported by the press and as he said in his January 9th press conference, had no indication that this was anything other than a traffic study until he read otherwise the morning of January 8th. The Governor denies Mr. Wildstein's lawyer's other assertions."

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