News Release

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ACC: WHITE HOUSE KEystone PIPELINE DECISION AT ODDS WITH NEW ENERGY STRATEGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 18, 2012) – The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today released the following statement in response to the Obama Administration’s anticipated decision to reject the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

“Today’s decision is puzzling and troubling, especially in light of President Obama’s new energy strategy announced yesterday,” said Cal Dooley, ACC President and CEO. “The administration says it wants to enhance energy security and create jobs, in part by speeding permitting of new pipelines, while rejecting a prime opportunity to do so. As the President moves ahead with an ‘all in’ energy strategy, as recommended by his Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, we hope production and infrastructure have a meaningful role.

“The Keystone project would have provided 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs right away and added tens of thousands of additional jobs in other sectors. It would have strengthened energy security by enhancing our energy partnership with Canada. The final Environmental Impact Statement found the pipeline ‘would have a degree of safety greater than any typically constructed domestic oil pipeline system under current regulations.’ And the decision is bad news for the nation’s chemistry industry, which needs reliable energy supplies. Any way you look at it, this is a short-sighted step.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.