

JOINT RESOLUTION
BILLINGS, MONTANA CITY COUNCIL 98- 17332
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSION 98-30

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR YELLOWSTONE PIPE LINE COMPANY IN ITS EFFORTS TO RE-CONNECT THE PIPELINE BETWEEN MISSOULA, MONTANA AND PLAINS, MONTANA.

WHEREAS, the refineries operated by Conoco, Inc., Exxon USA and Cenex in the Billings area are a foundation of the local economy, providing direct and contract employment opportunities that support more than 1,000 area families with combined annual payrolls exceeding \$36 million; and

WHEREAS, these industries have expended \$450 Million in recent refinery capital investments which have impacted the Billings-area economy; and

WHEREAS, one-fourth (1/4) of all the petroleum products manufactured by these local refineries is committed to the important and highly competitive market in eastern Washington and northern Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the ability of these refineries to remain competitive in this significant market is dependent upon cost-effective, environmentally safe, underground, pipeline transportation from Billings to Spokane, Washington; and

WHEREAS, across the Flathead Indian Reservation, transportation of petroleum products was disrupted in 1995, increasing transportation costs and impacting the market share of the Billings-area refineries; and

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone Pipe Line Company, operator of the petroleum products pipeline is seeking to re-connect the pipeline between Missoula, Montana and Plains, Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone Pipe Line Company (YPL) is paying for a \$4 Million environmental impact study (EIS) of various alternative re-connection routes to satisfy U.S. Forest Service requirements for a permit to cross national forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has required a detailed EIS that includes studies of several alternative pipeline routes, and

WHEREAS, the collection of data by the U.S. Forest Service should not exceed that required for environmental studies of comparable pipeline project; and

WHEREAS, this has contributed to a six-month delay in the eastern Washington market share by the Billings-area refineries; and

WHEREAS, underground petroleum pipeline systems are generally regarded as a safe, convenient and economically sound method of delivering petroleum products.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL AND YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSION:

That we support the proposed re-connection of the Yellowstone pipeline between Missoula, Montana and Plains, Montana, as a matter of urgent community need to both the Billings-area refineries and to all the people in the Greater Billings region who depend on these important employers and taxpayers to help drive our local economy; and

Further, the Billings City Council and Yellowstone County Commission encourage the U.S. Forest Service to expedite the completion of the Yellowstone pipeline EIS, and to issue a pipeline company permit within a reasonable period of time to confirm design provisions associated with safety and environment to start construction of a re-connection of the YPL pipeline between Missoula, Montana and the Plains, Montana area.



THE CITY OF BILLINGS:

BY:


Charles F. Tooley, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BY: Marita Herold
Marita Herold, CMC CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 98- 17332

THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSION:

BY: Bill Kennedy
Commissioner

BY: Mike Mathews
Commissioner

BY: June A. Ziegler, S.
Commissioner

ATTEST:

BY: Tony L. Nave
Tony L. Nave, CLERK AND RECORDER