Latino Health Advocates Oppose Keystone XL Pipeline

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Advocates are calling on President Obama to reject the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, arguing that the health of the Latino community will be disproportionately impacted by the plan, Think Progress reports.

Presente.org, the largest Latino political organizing group in the country, argues the pipeline—which, if approved, would bring up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil every day from Canadian tar sands down to refineries in Texas and Louisiana—has the potential to damage both the long- and short-term health of Latino neighborhoods.

Their argument hinges on the fact that many of the cities surrounding the proposed southern refinery sites coincidentally have some of the largest Latino populations in the United States. Advocates suspect that Latinos would bear the brunt of any potential accidents occurring to the pipeline.

The coalition also argues that Keystone XL's potential contributions to air pollution and global warming would disproportionately affect Latinos, too. That's because Latino communities tend to be more heavily concentrated in coastal and drought-prone regions of the United States, which are more susceptible to climate change.

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