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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com



(Neb.)-Keystone XL Foes Turn Focus To Local Government



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/03/2013 07:34 AM

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline are turning to low-level county commissions and zoning boards in an effort to slow the project, which is a flash point in the national battle over climate change.

Landowners and other opponents are asking local officials along the pipeline route to pass resolutions opposing the project. They're hopeful the signs of local opposition will give President Obama another reason to reject the pipeline, which would carry oil from the Canadian tar sands to refineries on the Texas Gulf coast. Obama could make a decision later this year.

State officials along the pipeline's 1,700-mile route are no longer fighting the project. Some county officials are considering landowners' requests to oppose it, but acknowledge they may not be able to stop it.