Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on the U.S. State Department's decision to explore alternative routes for the Keystone XL pipeline, which would run through an environmentally delicate area of Nebraska.

"Exploring an alternate route is the right decision," Fortenberry said. "The Ogallala Aquifer and the Nebraska Sandhills demand the highest level of environmental protection. Many Nebraskans were rightly concerned regarding the siting of the Keystone XL pipeline. We need a strategic energy partnership with Canada that respects our natural resources and upholds environmental stewardship."

Fortenberry has conveyed Nebraskans' concerns to the State Department over the past year. He recently met with TransCanada and Canadian officials to push for support of rerouting.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

###