

Over the weekend was the largest ever rally in Washington, DC, calling for real action on the looming climate change catastrophe. It was right in front of the White House because the decision on whether to allow construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is now an executive one in the hands of President Obama.

This proposed pipeline for the most climate-toxic fossil carbon deposits is being called the key to expansion of the tar sands industry. At a time when global warming is already having a dramatic impact on extreme weather events, it would be reckless and irresponsible to continue to accelerate this activity.

At the state of the union speech last week, and in the face of total Republican intransigence to do anything about it, President Obama promised executive action to address this crisis himself. Rejection of Keystone XL is the singular most important step President Obama can take to make good on this promise. And he must.