Washington, DC (January 18, 2012) – Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09) issued the following statement after the Obama Administration formally rejected construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would create tens of thousands of jobs and provide the United States with access to natural resources from Canada:

"This project would have allowed the United States to utilize natural resources from our trusted neighbor rather than relying so heavily on an increasingly hostile Middle East, providing us with greater energy independence and national security. I expected much more from the administration during these tough economic times, as this project would have put tens of thousands of Americans to work and helped bolster the country's long-term economic opportunities."