

Protection of Standing Rock Sioux Lands

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation have all said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not prepared an adequate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with regard to drinking water as affected by the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL); and

Whereas Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., and associated subcontractors have bulldozed a two-mile, 150-foot wide path through land currently being contested in Federal Court, destroying ancient cairns and stone prayer rings of irreplaceable historical value; and

Whereas the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues based on Article 19 of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the United States endorsed in 2010, says: "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them" and the USACE has not allowed the Tribe to have that right; and

Whereas the 1851 and 1868 Treaties of Fort Laramie included extensive lands, promised to the Sioux Tribe in perpetuity, that would be crossed by the proposed pipeline, but in 1877 and again in 1889, Congress betrayed the treaty parties by passing statutes that took major portions of this land away from the Sioux, leaving nine much smaller Sioux reservations, including Standing Rock. In 1958, the USACE took 56,000 acres of bottomlands on the Standing Rock reservation for the Oahe Dam and Reservoir project without the Tribe's consent or agreement; and

Whereas the Standing Rock Sioux, as a successor to the Great Sioux Nation, are party to the 1851 and 1868 Treaties of Fort Laramie and view the water and ancestral lands as sacred entities; and

Whereas the USACE falsely asserted on April 22, 2016 that "no historic properties" were affected by the Lake Oahe decision; and

Whereas Energy Transfer Partners and its associates have used both psychological and physical warfare—the use of dogs, pepper spray, and water cannons—and have desecrated sacred grounds; and

Whereas the DAPL crosses hundreds, if not thousands of federally regulated rivers, streams, and wetlands that could be harmed along its route, many of which are of utmost cultural, spiritual, ecological, and economic significance to the Tribe and its members;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux, urge Energy Transfer Inc. to remove all dogs and military-style security and law enforcement from the area of protest, urge the USACE to stand down until the litigation has been resolved; and urge our members to commit to action to help the people of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation oppose the North Dakota Access Pipeline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we adopt and forward this resolution to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Energy Transfer Partners, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

Adopted November 22, 2016, by the King County Democratic Central Committee