



Concerned Faculty, Staff, & Students
Syracuse University
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Chairman Dave Archambault II
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building 1 North Standing Rock Avenue
Fort Yates, ND 58530

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A Statement of Support for the Oceti Sakowin Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux, and their allies at Standing Rock

We the undersigned faculty, staff, and students of Syracuse University stand in solidarity with the Oceti Sakowin Oyate (Great Sioux Nation), the Standing Rock Sioux, and the numerous other Indigenous Nations and allies acting to protect water against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, a project of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners. This project is not only a violation of treaty rights, but also of international and federal law. Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) says that “states shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.” No such consent was sought or granted. Although federal law also requires The Army Corps of Engineers to consult with the tribe about its sovereign interests, construction began without meaningful consultation. The US government’s ongoing inaction is indicative of their disregard for tribal nations and their communities—and is consistent with a relationship that has been marked by genocide and structural injustice from first contact, through the founding of the United States, and up to the present moment. In addition local, state, federal, and privatized so-called ‘security’ forces are continuing this legacy of violence through their policing, surveillance, containment, and assault of men, women and children currently acting to protect water and life at Standing Rock. This violence is, and has always been, entirely unacceptable. We disavow it in the strongest terms.

The Dakota Access Pipeline is an imminent threat to those living on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, as well as those who live near the pipeline and rely on water from the Missouri River. The pipeline is a dangerous, grave risk to a primary water source and would be an environmental assault on the community if a spill were to occur. Energy Transfer Partners has assured the people of Standing Rock that the pipeline would be



closely monitored, but given the historical relations between Indigenous peoples and the United States, the tribe has little faith that this will be upheld. President Obama’s recent statements about re-routing the pipeline to a nearby location are offered as a “solution” to end the action at Standing Rock, but do nothing to mediate the ongoing risks it poses or address the urgency of climate change. The record on spillage is bleak. In 2012-2013, there were 300 oil pipeline breaks in North Dakota alone. In addition, the pipeline has already disturbed burial grounds and sacred sites on the tribe’s ancestral treaty lands—its construction marks violation on multiple fronts.

As a collective of scholars, some of whom come from and/or work alongside Indigenous communities, we understand the stakes associated with the propagation of US colonial interests; interests that place the extraction of fossil fuels for profit over a fundamental right to access clean water and a desire to preserve and protect the planet. The Oceti Sakowin Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux, and their allies are not just fighting for their own existence, but for those who are unable to do so and for all the future generations that follow. We will continue to stand with those who are holding the line to stop the pipeline construction. In so doing we commit to continuing work at Syracuse University for a carbon-free future and for institutional and personal divestment from those corporate financial entities that persist in underwriting DAPL (to include Wells Fargo, Bank of America, HSBC, UBS, Goldman Sachs, and JP Morgan Chase). Finally we acknowledge, in particular, Ladonna Brave Bull Allard and the many other women at Standing Rock who began the movement and continue to organize tirelessly to protect the water. This fight is the fight of all Indigenous peoples and their allies struggling against the imposition of neoliberal development projects that continue to harm humans and homelands alike. Any threat to water is a threat to life itself.

Sincerely,

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43. Anya Stanger PhD, SU alum, Sierra College



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90. Clare Hough, SU student
91. Alaine Gigon, SU student
92. Sarina Wallace, SU student
93. Joann Hill, Grandmother of an SU student
94. Suzy Baiz, mother of a Native SU student
95. Jared Whear, SU student
96. Sharon Quituisaca, SU student
97. Victoria Valentine, SU student
98. Kai Nguyen, SU student
99. Deborah Orieta, SU student
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