

Chairman Dave Archambault II  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Building 1 North Standing Rock Ave.  
Fort Yates, ND 58530

November 24, 2016

### **A Statement of Support for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock**

To the brave Hunkpapa Lakota of the Standing Rock Reservation,

As concerned current and former students, faculty, and staff at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, we hereby declare our firm support for you in your continued fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline. As members of the environmental community we have borne witness to the grave environmental, human, and historic injustices at Standing Rock. We cannot be silent anymore in the face of such injustice.

As one of the world's preeminent schools of the environment, our mission affirms that solving environmental problems must incorporate human values and motivations and a deep respect for both human and natural communities. It is painful to see the continued destruction of our natural environment and the continued favoring of economic values over human ones. Your bravery and unwavering resistance is an inspiration to us all and demands that we, too, take a stand.

As concerned students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, we express our solidarity with the Hunkpapa People and water protectors at Standing Rock and state the following:

- We recognize the connection between land rights, water rights, and human rights, and support your People's federally-protected rights against the economic interests of those seeking the pipeline's construction;
- We express concern about the potential for grave environmental destruction due to Bakken oil contamination of the Missouri River and its tributaries, and the devastating environmental and human effects such contamination would have;
- We sharply question the Dakota Access Pipeline negotiations between the Army Corps of Engineers and Energy Transfer Partners that is in violation of treaty rights and the Safe Water Drinking Act, that encroaches upon sacred sites of the Lakota nation, and that threatens the integrity of our natural environment;
- We demand that Army Corps of Engineers and Energy Transfer Partners be held accountable for their transgressions against human and environmental treaties and rights;
- We condemn the inhumane actions taken against peaceful water protectors;
- We contest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' approval of the pipeline and challenge the lack of response from our current government;
- We reaffirm the importance of upholding Native Peoples' rights as integral to our fight against climate change and environmental destruction;
- We stand with the Standing Rock Hunkpapa People.

As scholars, practitioners, environmentalists, and citizens of this community, we stand for environmental justice, human dignity, and recognition of Native Peoples' rights. We stand with Standing Rock.

Mni Wiconi. Water is Life.

Sincerely,

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