

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

11/17/2016

RESOLUTION 2016.10

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to Solidarity with Indigenous Resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline

WHEREAS, the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1,168-mile pipeline being developed by Energy Transfer Partners and its affiliates, which would carry as much as 500,000 barrels per day of crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois, running beneath or across federally regulated rivers, streams, and wetlands along its route; and

WHEREAS, many locations, of utmost spiritual, ecological, economic, and cultural significance to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and its members, could potentially be harmed, such as sacred sites and burial grounds that federal law seeks to protect and the Missouri River (at Lake Oahe), just a half a mile upstream of the tribe's reservation boundary, where a spill would be culturally, environmentally, and economically catastrophic; and

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 done an adequate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), mainly with regard to drinking water of the North Dakota Access Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Energy Transfer Inc., in partnership with the Enbridge Corporation and Marathon Oil, bulldozed a two mile, 150 feet wide path through land currently being contested in Federal Court; 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 (UNDRIP), which the U.S. 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, Articles, 11, 12, and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People affirms that indigenous peoples have the right to protect their culture, religion, practices, and relationship with their ‘traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories [and] waters’; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 affirms the need to “protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions,” particularly in American Indian sacred places; and

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

WHEREAS, the Sioux Tribes have already suffered from too many betrayals of the the 1851 and 1868 Treaties of Fort Laramie, including being stripped of major portions of land in 1877, 1889, and 1958, the most recent incident resulting in the loss of 56,000 acres used for the Oahe dam and reservoir without the tribe’s consent; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has brought a lawsuit to halt construction of the pipeline for compelling reasons; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, and the DAPL project represents a continuation of the systematic oppression facing indigenous peoples in the Americas that will set judicial precedence for future encounters between these nations; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2015, the City of Eugene recognized Indigenous People’s Day, to be celebrated the second Monday in October; and

WHEREAS, if private firms can override indigenous peoples’ opposition to such projects in North Dakota, they can do the same in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, led by Tribal Chairman David Archambault II, called on Tribal Nations and Indigenous people around the world “to stand with Standing Rock by issuing proclamations, resolutions, and/or letters of support”; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County values Indigenous cultures’ wisdom that clean water, air and land are essential to life, and has a history of recognizing and acting for social

and ecological justice.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves that:

Section 1. We stand in solidarity with the 300+ tribes of indigenous people who stand in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline, with both moral support and a call to action by county residents, following the lead of Indigenous groups, and urge municipalities, universities and other organizations throughout the United States to do the same.

Section 2. We strongly denounce the militarization of police forces and their use of sound cannons, rubber bullets, pepper spray, and batons on peaceful protestors.

Section 3. We urge Energy Transfer Inc. to cease all construction of this pipeline, pending a full EIS.

Section 4. We call on the State of North Dakota, the federal government, and the Army Corp of Engineers to demand Energy Transfer Inc. cease all construction and require a full EIS.

Section 5. We shall recruit one of the DPLC delegates to the state central committee to submit, with three days of passage of this resolution, an appropriately modified resolution to the Democratic Party of Oregon for consideration at its December 2016 state central committee meeting.

Section 6. We shall, with two weeks of passing this resolution, send a letter to our Congressional delegation asking them to publicly stand in solidarity with the water protectors at Standing Rock.

Section 7. We shall, within two weeks of passing this resolution, send this resolution to the current mayors of Lane County, as well as any mayor elects, asking them to sign on as co-sponsors.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, November 17, 2016**

Signed:

X _____ . X _____ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary