



Dakota Access Pipeline in Missouri River Area  
 A Letter of Inquiry and Support - Protests at Dakota Access Pipeline  
 by Saami North Americans and Friends



August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

This is a brief but strongly worded letter of inquiry and support about the protests in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Part one: Inquiries: The inquiries are many, but we have chosen only three here:

- 1) If this pipeline is so safe why is it not running a shorter route along an established rail line or through major towns in North Dakota?
- 2) Is the pipeline company willing to post a \$3 billion performance bond for cleanup and compensation in event of a major pipe leak, along with verifiable legal and financial proof of this bonding and of the solid funding of the same, including agreement to assume personal responsibility?
- 3) Why is the pipeline company willing to risk at any price one of the main water sources of the entire United States, as the Missouri River feeds directly into the Mississippi River, potentially affecting states - millions of people - all the way from the northern USA to the Gulf of Mexico?

Support: The wide support for the protests against the pipeline includes people of a variety of location, occupation, political affiliation, and previous experience working with oil cleanup cases.

- 1) The protesting Native Americans, and their wide-ranging supporters have understood that the profits and tax benefits of this pipeline are set up to benefit the stockholders and executives of Dakota Access Pipeline. Anything that goes to North Dakota or the Native American peoples is coincidental to the primary profit-making purposes of Dakota Access.
- 2) Beyond the profit motive, Dakota Access does not serve the interests of the Native American Peoples, from both treaty rights as well as legal, political, and religious rights too numerous to list here.
- 3) This entire issue goes beyond Native American zones, and places citizens of all races, languages, and religions at risk, due to the enormous distances involved and the potential for long-term damage to water, homes, and the general environment.

In conclusion, therefore, we submit this letter as a public appeal for inquiry and support. This is not a little pipeline, it is a long-term threat over a long distance, affecting many people and threatening an enormous amount of fresh water. This matter calls for an entirely new approach to energy distribution, specifically the shipping of crude oil. Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline must be halted now and better ways sought out before a tragedy irreversibly damages millions of gallons of fresh water and land for generations to come. Our support is indicated by our names here, as added from time to time now.

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Sincerely,

John Edward Xavier, American of Saami descent, Minnesota (Vice Chair-Elect, North American Sami Searvi)

Nils Gransberg, CPT(R), American of Norwegian-South Saami descent, adopted Kiowa, living on unassigned lands given and taken from the Seminole People, taken first from the Kiowa Nation in Oklahoma (Community Representative-Elect, North American Saami Seabrie)

MJ Antonsen, American of Saami and Native American descent, Minnesota

Rhonda Heise Asher, Finnish-Saami descendent living on Lenape land.

Linda Bohrnerud, of Sámi descent, Quebec Province, Canada

J Marcangela Niva Capecchi, American of Saami descent, Minnesota.

Donald Engstrom-Reece, born in Des Moines River Valley, a descendant of Sami and other Northern European Peoples, now making my home in the Upper Mississippi Valley, on sacred Dakota land.

Gloria Erickson, Sacramento, California

Brian King, American of Saami descent, Minnesota

Robin Mavis, American of Sámi descent, Minnesota

Renee McAdams, American of South Saami, and Osage/Cherokee/Nakota descent, Oregon

Barbara Ann Nimis, American of Saami descent, Mendota, Minnesota

Cynthia Pannell, American of Saami descent, Oregon

S.M. Pottratz

Paulette Myers-Rich, American of Sámi descent, New York City

Jill Stewart, American of Swedish-South Saami descent, Minnesota

Mike Scott, American of South Saami descent, Montana

Kurt Seaberg, American of Swedish-Saami descent, living near confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers on sacred Dakota land (Elder, Advisory Council, North American Sami Searvi)

Rosalie Sundin, American of Saami descent, Minnesota

Eileen M. Sundquist, American of South Saami descent, Upper Peninsula, Michigan

Anne Varberg, American of Saami descent, Minnesota

Additional Co-Signers as of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Kristeen Anderson

Evelyn Ashford

Deborah Brown

Lynn Gleason

Christine Hansen

Molly Howard

Arden Johnson

Mervi Salo, Finnish-Saami descent, living on land of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (Anishinabe) land in Canada (Chairwoman-Elect, North American Sami Searvi)

Amy Swanson King

Kaisha Margaret Kristensen

Sara Linde

Mavis Mantilla

Ginger Mayorga

Heather Stevens

Anja Kitti Walhelm

Christina Zempel

Additional Co-Signers as of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Brian Thorbjørnsen, Sami-Norwegian-American from Duluth, Minnesota

Morten Krogh

Ellie Popeney, American of Norwegian Sami descent

Judith Sayad

Frederick Spurlin, American of Norwegian Saami Descent, Minnesota and the Dakotas

Megan Vermeer, American of South Saami descent, Florida