



Statement of Support for Those Resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline

We, the American Indian Health Research and Education Alliance, Inc. (AIHREA), stand in solidarity with the protesters rallying against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Despite large amounts of resistance from American Indian and non-Native communities, farmers, and ranchers in all states affected by the construction of this pipeline, the United States Army Corps of Engineers approved permits allowing the construction of the Bakken, or Dakota Access, Pipeline.

AIHREA is dedicated to improving the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of American Indian peoples and communities throughout the United States, and this pipeline has the potential to endanger the lives of countless Native and non-Native people living in its path. The construction of this pipeline is a direct affront to the rights of these people to live healthy and happy lives.

The Dakota Access Pipeline will leak; this is an inevitability. In 2015 alone there were nearly 40 pipeline failures and spills throughout the United States resulting in personal property damage, pollution of groundwater and waterways, and health concerns and complications resulting from exposure to contaminated water. The proposed path of the Bakken Pipeline will travel under the Missouri River less than a mile away from the boundaries of the Standing Rock Indian Community in North Dakota. When a leak or other major malfunction occurs, polluting the longest river in North America, this community will be the first to be affected. However, communities, both Native and non-Native will be affected all along the Missouri.

The approval of this pipeline violates the sovereign status of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the sovereignty of all American Indian Nations, as well as their ability to advocate for and protect the lives of their people. We condemn the construction of this pipeline and stand in opposition to the decisions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Energy Transfer Partners.

In Solidarity,

The American Indian Health Research and Education Alliance, Inc.