

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 8, 2016

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


We would like to bring to your attention the attached letters and resolutions shared with us by Pueblo of Isleta Governor E. Paul Torres on behalf of the All Pueblo Council of Governors representing 20 pueblos, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez, and the President of the Shiprock Chapter Duane Chili Yazzie. In particular we call to your attention the resolution from the Shiprock Chapter calling on your administration to intervene in the deplorable recent escalation of violence between private security personnel and Native American protestors over the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

We oppose and condemn unjustified violence against protestors in the strongest possible terms. The aggressive actions undertaken by private contractor security personnel in North Dakota including the use of pepper spray and dogs are alarming, and it is important that the concerns regarding this project are given due consideration and steps are taken to ensure the safety of everyone on site.

We are aware of ongoing litigation concerning the Army Corps of Engineers' approval of permits, but we request an immediate intervention into this escalating violence and that your administration respond to the growing concerns in tribal communities across New Mexico about the First Amendment rights and abusive treatment of Native American protestors.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


TOM UDALL
United States Senator


MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator


BEN RAY LUJÁN
United States Representative


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
United States Representative



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE *PRESIDENT*
JONATHAN NEZ *VICE PRESIDENT*

August 22, 2016

Chairman Dave Archambault II
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building #1, Standing Rock Avenue
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Re: Dakota Access Pipeline

Honorable Chairman Archambault:

We send this letter to notify the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that the Navajo Nation is in support of your efforts regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline. I know there are many Navajos that are currently in North Dakota area standing along with your tribal members and others. We have been receiving daily reports from our People on your progress and brave efforts.

The protection of our sacred sites and water is of the utmost importance to all tribes, as it is to the Navajo Nation. This is a fight that all tribes have faced and the Navajo Nation has faced and faces even today within our own lands. I am proud to see so many other tribes come to support your efforts because it is time tribes finally stand against these threats to our lands. We will be heard because we are one, not one as a tribal nation but one as Native people.

Continue to fight the good fight and pave the path for all of our futures. We send our prayers and know that the Navajo Nation stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Furthermore, in support of your efforts the Navajo Nation will be sending water and other food items for those who are there with you.

Respectfully,

THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye".

Russell Begaye, *President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Nez".

Jonathan M. Nez, *Vice President*

All Pueblo Council of Governors

Officers

Governor E. Paul Torres, Chairman

Governor Val Pineda, Sr., Vice Chairman

Governor J. Michael Chavez, Secretary

2401 12th Street NW Suite 200 N Albuquerque NM 87104

Acoma

August 31, 2016

Cochiti

Honorable Chairman David Archambault II
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building #1, Standing Rock Avenue
Post Office Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Re: Support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their opposition of the Dakota Access Pipeline

Nambe

Dear Chairman David Archambault II,

Ohkay

Owinge

Picuris

On behalf of the All Pueblo Council of Governors, I am writing to express our support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in your opposition of the Dakota Access Pipeline at this critical time. The All Pueblo Council of Governors is comprised of 20 sovereign pueblos located in New Mexico and Texas. We understand as Native people, that it is our inherent legal, moral and spiritual responsibility, as well as our sovereign right to protect our mother earth and all natural resources vital to the well-being of our communities.

Pojoaque

Sandia

San

Felipe

With that said, water is what sustains all life on the planet and is precious to our respective and collective tribes and pueblos. The threat of the Dakota Access Pipeline is not a matter of 'if' but 'when' the pipeline leaks, busts or breaks, it will endanger the environment, wildlife, land, cultural sites and water affecting the health and welfare of our brothers and sisters at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and millions of United States citizens.

San

Idefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

We share your same commitment to safeguard our rights and resources and stand united with you and your people in our hearts, thoughts and prayers as you fight to protect the land, water and your sacred sites. You have shown great courage in your movement and we commend you in all of your efforts as you have inspired unity and solidarity among tribes across the country and throughout the world to stand with you physically and in spirit as you stand strong to protect our most precious and irreplaceable natural resources.

Santo

Domingo


Thank you for your leadership in this initiative and you have our full support. May our creator protect and strengthen you, our Standing Rock Sioux brothers and sisters as you defend the rights and resources for all people and future generations to come.

Taos

Tesuque

Sincerely,

Ysleta Del Sur



Zia

Governor E. Paul Torres, APCG Chairman

Zuni



Shiprock Chapter Government of the Navajo Nation

P.O. Box 3810 • Shiprock, New Mexico 87420-3810



Email: shiprock@navajochapters.org • (505) 368-1081 • Fax (505) 368-1092 • Website: www.shiprock.nndes.org

05 September 2016

Senator Tom Udall
Senator Martin Heinrich
Congressman Ben Ray Lujan

Gentlemen:

As reflected in the attached two resolutions, the Shiprock Chapter is supportive of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. We are tremendously concerned with the violence that occurred on Saturday, September 03, 2016. I am respectfully making a personal plea that you each act on the chapter resolution that is entitled "Petitioning the President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama to intervene in the confrontational condition between the Dakota Access Pipeline Developers and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their supporters". There has already been injury and we must do all possible to prevent further injury and perhaps loss of life, we cannot just stand by and let things get worse. Please know that as Indigenous Peoples we are not going to back down.

I appeal to you as my personal friends particularly Tom and B. Ray, I have been with you since the first time you asked me to support you and that has been many years. There are Shiprock community members and from all parts of the Navajo Nation, people who have supported you because I asked them to, at the Sacred Stone Camp right now.

I am confidence that you will, without hesitation, respond to my request immediately and decisively in presenting our pleas to President Obama. I look forward to your actions on behalf of your Indigenous family to take this urgent and imperative action.

Most Respectfully,
Your Friend,

Duane Chili Yazzie

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Duane H. Yazzie, President
Tommie Yazzie, Vice-President
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 12 GRAZING COMMITTEE

Robert Hayes, Member

SAN JUAN RIVER FARM BOARD

Vacant

COUNCIL DELEGATE

Tom Chee



Resolution of the Shiprock Chapter

SHIPROCK, NAVAJO NATION



DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE IN THEIR STANCE TO OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE THROUGH THEIR ABORIGINAL LANDS

WHEREAS:

1. The Shiprock Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred upon the chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, Section 1, Part B which states, "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Nation laws, including customs and tradition" and the inclusivity provided by the Diné Fundamental Law, in that "it is entirely appropriate for the government itself to openly observe these fundamental laws"; and
2. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is a federally recognized tribe that is guaranteed lands under the Ft. Laramie Treaty of 1868, and
3. A proposed pipeline is planned to be constructed to carry crude oil from the North Dakota oil fields across Tribal lands over the objection of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the original Landlords, because there has been no free, prior and informed consent as guaranteed by treaty and international standards of law including the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and
4. The proposed pipeline is planned to be constructed under the Missouri River, one of the last remaining clean rivers in America and the prime water source for many communities, and
5. There has not been adequate studies done to assure the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Tribes and communities that live along the proposed pipeline route on the safety of the pipeline, in view of the fact that there were over 300 oil pipeline breaks in North Dakota last year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Shiprock Chapter membership hereby unequivocally declares its support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their stance to oppose the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline through their aboriginal lands, and
2. The Shiprock Chapter membership hereby requests of the Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye and Vice President Johnathan Nez to sponsor and enact legislation to memorialize a similar position and to expeditiously forward such resolution to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other related federal agencies and pertinent entities.

Motioned by: Leonard Anthony

Seconded by: Rose Fasthorse Nofchissey

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered at a duly called Chapter Meeting, at which a quorum was present and that same was approved by a vote of 58 in favor and 0 opposed and 0 abstentions on the 21th day of August, 2016 in Shiprock, Navajo Nation.

Duane H. Yazzie
Duane H. Yazzie, President

Dr. J. Kaibah Begay
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

Tommy Yazzie
Tommy Yazzie, Vice-President

Tom Chee
Tom Chee, Council Delegate



Resolution of the Shiprock Chapter

SHIPROCK, NAVAJO NATION



PETITIONING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA TO INTERVENE IN THE CONFRONTATIONAL CONDITION BETWEEN THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE DEVELOPERS AND THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

WHEREAS:

1. The Shiprock Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred upon the chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, Section 1, Part B which states, "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Nation laws, including customs and tradition" and the inclusivity provided by the Diné Fundamental Law, in that "it is entirely appropriate for the government itself to openly observe these fundamental laws"; and
2. The Shiprock Chapter approved resolution 08-21-16-082-SHIP entitled "Declaring support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their stance to oppose the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline through their aboriginal lands", and
3. The Shiprock Chapter membership is greatly disturbed that there was violence at ground zero in Cannonball, ND where the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) developers' security personnel released attack dogs on the unarmed resisters of the DAPL, including Indigenous Tribal peoples with members of the Navajo Nation and the Shiprock Chapter and people of many nationalities, and
4. Such vicious attacks cannot be tolerated and allowed to happen in America where there are rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution to peacefully assemble, we have the right to free expression, the right to defend ones' homeland and the right to free, prior and informed consent as articulated in the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and
5. It is incumbent on President Obama to intervene in this confrontation to prevent further injury and to carry through on his responsibilities as an adopted member of the Crow Tribal Nation and by extension, of all Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The members of the Shiprock Chapter hereby emphatically and strongly petitions the President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama to intervene in the confrontational condition between the Dakota Access Pipeline developers and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their supporters.

Motioned by: Cindy Bates

Seconded by: Beverly Maxwell

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered at a duly called Chapter Meeting, at which a quorum was present and that same was approved by a vote of 65 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions on the 04th day of September, 2016 in Shiprock, Navajo Nation.

Duane H. Yazzie
Duane H. Yazzie, President

Dr. J. Kaibah Begay
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

Tommie Yazzie
Tommie Yazzie, Vice-President