

IN SUPPORT OF THE WATER PROTECTORS AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

In early December 2016 the Army Corps of Engineers refused to grant a permit to the section of the 1,172-mile Dakota Access Pipeline in an area just north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The Army Corps is exploring alternate routes and considering an Environmental Impact Statement, but concerns remain that the decision to stop the pipeline could be reversed under the new administration.

The group protesting the pipeline, known as “water protectors”, include members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, Native Americans from over 700 tribes across the country, veterans, and environmental activists. The water protectors gathered at the beginning of the year, with more and more joining their opposition to the pipeline that would carry more than a half million barrels per day of crude oil fracked from the Bakken shale oil fields of North Dakota to Illinois, passing over sensitive landscapes, cultural resources and across or under rivers and tributaries, including the Missouri River. Many water protectors remain at the site of the protest despite the winter weather, concerned that the decision to reroute the pipeline will be overturned.

Dane County shares the value of water protection with the Standing Rock Sioux. Dane County’s work to ensure protections from potential spills from the Enbridge pipeline mirrors the concerns regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline. In fact, Enbridge is also involved in this pipeline dispute, having purchased a \$1.5 million stake in the pipeline system that includes Dakota Access.

Dane County, centered around lake and river systems, appreciates the pivotal role that water plays in sustaining our environmental, economic, and social health. As a result, many county government initiatives address protection of water quality.

Like North Dakota, Dane County was originally settled by Native Americans, and the Ho-Chunk Nation remains a vital community in the county. Efforts that potentially impact areas sacred to the Ho-Chunk continue to arise locally, including interest in disturbing a burial mound to expand a gravel excavation site. Dane County stood in support of the Ho-Chunk Nation, in opposition to this violation. Dane County has been a leader in preserving and protecting the burial sites of this region’s indigenous people and in partnership with the Ho-Chunk Nation completed a countywide inventory of burial sites in 1992.

Earlier this year, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council called on people around the world to issue resolutions in support of the Standing Rock Sioux and their efforts to protect their land, water and cultural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors expresses support of the Standing Rock Sioux water protectors and the Army Corps of Engineers refusal to grant a permit for the pipeline, and opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be shared with Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council Chairman Dave Archambault II, the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, and President-Elect Donald J. Trump.