



*JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MNI SOTA DAKOTA NATIONS
IN SUPPORT OF THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE
AUGUST 18, 2016*

WHEREAS, the Upper Sioux Community, the Lower Sioux Indian Community, the Prairie Island Indian Community and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community are federally recognized Dakota tribes located within the exterior boundaries of the State of Minnesota (collectively referred to herein as the “Mni Sota Dakota Nations”) all eastern bands of the Dakota Oyate and part of the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires); and

WHEREAS, water is a precious resource, in the Dakota language it is called Mni Wiconi – “water is life”; and

WHEREAS, the Mni Sota Dakota Nations are located along the Minnesota River or the Mississippi River in Minnesota and through our history we have lived near bodies of water knowing their value and their part in sustaining our People; and

WHEREAS, the Mni Sota Dakota Nations are very concerned about the experience that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is having with the agencies of the United States government regulating the location of the Dakota Access Pipeline Project (“DAPL”); and

WHEREAS, the United States government and its agencies have a trust responsibility to federally recognized tribes, any lack of meaningful consultation is disturbing and negatively impacts all tribes; and

WHEREAS, the DAPL is proposed to be a 1,172 mile pipeline that will transport a potential of 570,000 barrels of crude oil per day near the source of the drinking and irrigation water used by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other communities down river and appears to be progressing without proper and meaningful consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as well as addressing the real concerns of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Mni Sota Dakota Nations are aware of the devastating environmental damage that has been inflicted to our lakes and rivers here in Minnesota and in other areas of the United States as a result of oil spills or other water contamination; and

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WHEREAS, the Mni Sota Dakota Nations and the members of the Dakota Oyate located here in Minnesota strongly support the actions of the tribal government and members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their efforts to challenge the location of the DAPL where it crosses the Missouri River and state that the Army Corps of Engineers' tentative approval of the DAPL route is contrary to the government to government relationship between the tribes and the federal government and dishonors the policy statements of President Barack Obama and his predecessors regarding the proper maintenance of the government to government relationship and the trust relationship with tribal nations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Upper Sioux Community, the Lower Sioux Indian Community, the Prairie Island Indian Community and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community support the efforts of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to challenge the location of the DAPL Missouri River crossing and call on the United States government, and its agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, to honor the trust relationship between the United States government and federally recognized Indian tribes by reversing the decision to approve the situs of the DAPL Missouri River crossing, and to engage in proper and meaningful consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

UPPER SIOUX COMMUNITY

By: 
Kevin Jensvold, Chairman

LOWER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY

By: 
Robert Larsen, President

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY

By: 
Shelley Buck, President

SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX
COMMUNITY

By: 
Charles Vig, Chairman