

A Resolution in Support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

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3 **WHEREAS** the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1,168-mile, 30-inch
4 diameter pipeline being developed by of Energy Transfer Partners and its affiliates,
5 which would carry as much as 570,000 barrels per day of Bakken crude from western
6 North Dakota to Illinois;

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8 **WHEREAS** the DAPL would run across or beneath 209 rivers, creeks and tributaries,
9 including the Missouri River, which provides drinking water and irrigates agricultural
10 land in communities across the Midwest, serving nearly 10 million people;

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12 **WHEREAS** the DAPL would also run through the ancestral lands and waters reserved
13 for the traditional use of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe by the Treaty of Ft. Laramie,
14 including the Missouri River, burial grounds and gravesites, and other sacred sites of
15 cultural, religious, and historical significance;

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17 **WHEREAS** Indian Treaties such as the Treaty of Ft. Laramie are recognized by the U.S.
18 Constitution as “the supreme law of the land,” and require consultation and
19 cooperation by the United States with its Indian Treaty partner before any federal action
20 is taken that affects Treaty lands, territories, waters or other resources;

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22 **WHEREAS** the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 affirms the need to
23 “protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe,
24 express, and exercise the traditional religions,” particularly in American Indian sacred
25 places;

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27 **WHEREAS** Washington State recognizes that American Indian burial grounds and
28 historic graves are “a finite, irreplaceable, and nonrenewable cultural resource, and are
29 an intrinsic part of the cultural heritage of the people of Washington” (RCW 27.44.030);

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31 **WHEREAS** Articles, 11, 12, and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
32 Indigenous People (UNDRIP), as endorsed by the United States in 2010, affirms that
33 indigenous peoples like the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe possess the right to maintain
34 and protect their culture, religion, practices, and relationship with their “traditionally
35 owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories [and] waters”;

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37 **WHEREAS** the UNDRIP Article 32 further provides that governments shall consult
38 with indigenous peoples “in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the
39 approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources,
40 particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral,
41 water or other resources”;

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43 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to consult with or obtain the free,
44 prior and informed consent of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as required by the Treaty
45 of Fort Laramie, Executive Order 13175, the UNDRIP Article 10, and other federal and
46 international laws, before issuing a “Mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact” that
47 would result in an easement for horizontal directional drilling for the DAPL;
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49 **WHEREAS** any spill of oil into the Missouri River would irreparably harm the Standing
50 Rock Sioux Tribe’s Treaty reserved lands, territories, waters and other resources; burial
51 grounds, grave sites and other sacred sites of cultural, religious, and historical
52 significance; and spiritual relationships and indigenous ways of life;
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54 **WHEREAS** the Mayor of the City of Seattle, City Councils of Portland, Oregon, St. Paul
55 and Minneapolis, Minnesota, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians comprised of 59
56 Indian Nations in the Northwest, and nearly 200 Indian Nations, are among the
57 governmental bodies that have taken formal action to support the Standing Rock Sioux
58 Tribe and oppose the DAPL; and
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60 **WHEREAS** on January 24, 2017 President Trump took steps that potentially advance
61 the Dakota Access Pipeline as originally proposed;
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63 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democrats, continue to
64 stand in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s opposition to construction of the
65 Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) across the Tribe’s ancestral lands, water and sacred
66 sites; and
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68 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on our U.S. Government and
69 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain prior and informed consent from the
70 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe preceding any action by or on behalf of the U.S. Federal
71 Government that would harm, alter or destroy the Tribe’s ancestral lands, water or
72 sacred sites.
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74 Submitted by the 41st LD Democrats on 10/4/2016.
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77 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution on 1/28/2017, and recommended
78 that it be passed.
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80 The Washington State Democrats passed this resolution on 1/28/2017.