Title: A RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

Sponsored by: Monica Cortés Viharo (Drama), Randy Siebert (GPSS Secretary), Jessica Ullrich (Native Organization of Indigenous Scholars Co-President)

Written by: Monica Cortés Viharo (Drama), and Margaret Hughes (Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences)

Resolution Number: 03.16-17

WHEREAS we the members of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) at the University of Washington (UW) represent all graduate and professional students including Native and Indigenous students on the Seattle campus; and

WHEREAS UW acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations; and

WHEREAS Indian Treaties such as the Treaty of Ft. Laramie\(^1\) are recognized by the U.S. Constitution as “the supreme law of the land,” and require consultation and cooperation by the United States with its Indian Treaty partner before any federal action is taken that affects Treaty lands, territories, waters or other resources; and

WHEREAS the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978\(^2\) affirms the need to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions,” particularly in American Indian sacred places; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe strongly opposes the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), a 1,168-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline being developed by Energy Transfer Partners and its affiliates, which would carry as much as 570,000 barrels per day of Bakken crude oil from western North Dakota to Illinois, and would run across or beneath 209 rivers, creeks, and tributaries, including the Missouri River, which provides drinking water and irrigates agricultural land in communities across the Midwest, serving nearly 10 million people\(^3\), and

\(^1\) https://ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=42
\(^2\) http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/329AIRFA.htm

WHEREAS, the DAPL threatens the ancestral lands and waters reserved for the traditional use of the sovereign nation of the Standing Rock Sioux by the Treaty of Ft. Laramie, including the Missouri River, burial grounds and gravesites, and other sacred sites of cultural, religious, and historical significance; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and their allies from across the United States have been peacefully rallying against the DAPL, calling for supporters to voice their concerns, surrounded by hundreds of tribes and organizations who are resolutely standing in solidarity; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of unarmed Water Protectors, who are exercising their First Amendment rights, have been met with extreme police brutality, including the use of dogs, tear gas, pepper spray, concussion grenades, tasers, rubber bullets used by officers in riot gear and armored personnel carriers; and

WHEREAS, while Native Americans make up about 0.9% of the United States population, they account for 1.9% of those killed at the hands of police; and

WHEREAS, protesters continue to risks their lives by braving blizzards and -20 degree Fahrenheit wind-chill at their camp during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline and the process hydraulic fracturing are hazardous because methane has contaminated groundwater near active hydraulic fracking sites and

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injecting pressurized water into wells (in a process similar to modern hydraulic fracking) can induce earthquakes; and

WHEREAS the United States Army Corps of Engineers had denied a permit for the construction of this key section of the Dakota Access Pipeline but the Presidential Administration of Donald J. Trump has chosen to disregard that decision and;

WHEREAS Mr. Trump’s financial disclosure forms show he invested in Energy Transfer Partners, and its CEO donated to Trump’s Presidential campaign; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT GPSS acknowledges the existence of the oppression Native/Indigenous peoples continue to face; and

THAT we understand that, while the DAPL would have lasting, detrimental effects on the environment, it is more than an environmental problem, and the NO DAPL movement is more than an environmental movement; and

THAT we acknowledge that those participating in the event are not just protesters but also protectors; and

THAT GPSS will report the peacefulness of the movement, despite the violence and the police brutality the Water Protectors are facing; and

THAT this act is to protect our Mother Earth for the seven generations—not a selfish act or solely protest; and

THAT GPSS expresses its gratitude to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and its allies for undertaking the important work of water protection on behalf of all people and for providing a example of peaceful and determined political action for others to follow; and

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7 Protecting the earth for the next seven generations is a Native American cultural value.
THAT GPSS stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and will partner with other organizations on protests and mobilization efforts, where appropriate, to show solidarity with and support for these movements against the DAPL; and

THAT GPSS strongly urges the UW Administration including President Ana Mari Cauce, Provost Jerry Baldasty, and the University of Washington Board of Regents to publicly join us in standing in solidarity with UW Native and Indigenous students and the Northwest tribes in their efforts; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe; to the University of Washington Native Organization of Indigenous Scholars; to President Ana Mari Cauce, Provost Jerry Baldasty, and the University of Washington Board of Regents; to the UW Native American Advisory Board; to the local media outlets; and to others as appropriate.

*Presented to GPSS for approval on January 25th, 2017*

*Approved on February 8th, 2017*