

1 Title: **A RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH STANDING ROCK SIOUX**  
2 **TRIBE**

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

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

9  
10 Resolution Number: 03.16-17

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

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

19  
20 WHEREAS Indian Treaties such as the Treaty of Ft. Laramie<sup>1</sup> are recognized by the U.S.  
21 Constitution as “the supreme law of the land,” and require consultation and cooperation  
22 by the United States with its Indian Treaty partner before any federal action is taken that  
23 affects Treaty lands, territories, waters or other resources; and

24  
25 WHEREAS the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978<sup>2</sup> affirms the need to  
26 “protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe,  
27 express, and exercise the traditional religions,” particularly in American Indian sacred  
28 places; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe strongly opposes the proposed Dakota Access  
31 Pipeline (DAPL), a 1,168-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline being developed by Energy  
32 Transfer Partners and its affiliates, which would carry as much as 570,000 barrels per day  
33 of Bakken crude oil from western North Dakota to Illinois, and would run across or  
34 beneath 209 rivers, creeks, and tributaries, including the Missouri River, which provides  
35 drinking water and irrigates agricultural land in communities across the Midwest, serving  
36 nearly 10 million people<sup>3</sup>, and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=42>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/329AIRFA.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Griggs, “What Is The Dakota Access Pipeline?,” *Popular Science*, (1 Nov., 2016),  
<http://www.popsci.com/what-is-dakota-access-pipeline>

38 WHEREAS, the DAPL threatens the ancestral lands and waters reserved for the  
39 traditional use of the sovereign nation of the Standing Rock Sioux by the Treaty of Ft.  
40 Laramie, including the Missouri River, burial grounds and gravesites, and other sacred  
41 sites of cultural, religious, and historical significance; and  
42

43 WHEREAS, Articles, 11, 12, and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of  
44 Indigenous People (UNDRIP), as endorsed by the United States in 2010, affirms that  
45 Indigenous peoples like the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe possess the right to maintain and  
46 protect their culture, religion, practices, and relationship with their “traditionally owned  
47 or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories [and] waters”; and  
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49 WHEREAS, the UNDRIP Article 32 further provides that governments shall consult with  
50 Indigenous peoples “in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the  
51 approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly  
52 in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other  
53 resources”; and  
54

55 WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and their allies from across the United States  
56 have been peacefully rallying against the DAPL, calling for supporters to voice their  
57 concerns, surrounded by hundreds of tribes and organizations who are resolutely standing  
58 in solidarity; and  
59

60 WHEREAS, hundreds of unarmed Water Protectors, who are exercising their First  
61 Amendment rights, have been met with extreme police brutality, including the use of  
62 dogs, tear gas, pepper spray, concussion grenades, tasers, rubber bullets used by officers  
63 in riot gear and armored personnel carriers; and  
64

65 WHEREAS, while Native Americans make up about 0.9% of the United States  
66 population, they account for 1.9% of those killed at the hands of police; and  
67

68 WHEREAS, protesters continue to risk their lives by braving blizzards and -20 degree  
69 Fahrenheit wind-chill at their camp during the winter months; and  
70

71 WHEREAS, the pipeline and the process hydraulic fracturing are hazardous because  
72 methane has contaminated groundwater near active hydraulic fracturing sites<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>4</sup> Osborn, Stephen G., et al. "Methane contamination of drinking water accompanying gas-well drilling and hydraulic fracturing." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 108.20 (2011): 8172-8176.

73 injecting pressurized water into wells (in a process similar to modern hydraulic fracking)  
74 can induce earthquakes;<sup>5</sup>and

75

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

79

80 WHEREAS Mr. Trump’s financial disclosure forms show he invested in Energy Transfer  
81 Partners, and its CEO donated to Trump’s Presidential campaign<sup>6</sup>

82

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

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

88

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

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

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

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99 THAT this act is to protect our Mother Earth for the seven generations—not a selfish act  
100 or solely protest; and <sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>5</sup> Raleigh, C. B., J. H. Healy, and J. D. Bredehoeft. "An experiment in earthquake control at Rangely, Colorado." *Science* 191.4233 (1976): 1230-1237.

<sup>6</sup> Milman, "Dakota Access Pipeline Company and Donald Trump Have Close Financial Ties.," US News, *The Guardian*, (26 Oct. 2016), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/26/donald-trump-dakota-access-pipeline-investment-energy-transfer-partners>

<sup>7</sup> Protecting the earth for the next seven generations is a Native American cultural value.

106 THAT GPSS stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and will partner  
107 with other organizations on protests and mobilization efforts, where appropriate, to show  
108 solidarity with and support for these movements against the DAPL; and

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

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

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

121 *Approved on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017*