

Oberlin Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Oberlin, Ohio

October 19, 2016

Oberlin Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the efforts of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its many allies to halt construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Pipeline, being constructed by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners with support from energy and financial partners, is intended to transfer about half the crude oil from the Bakken oil field in western North Dakota to southern Illinois, for further transport to refineries on the U.S. east and gulf coasts. The planned route crosses South Dakota and Iowa, in addition to North Dakota and Illinois.

The planned route lies adjacent to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. It threatens their ancestral lands and ancient burial and other sacred sites and artifacts protected by treaties and the National Historic Preservation Act. The pipeline would also degrade the environment, not only from the risks inherent in any pipeline, but also from the use of the fracking-derived fossil fuels it would transport.

The tribal efforts, called “Protectors of the Water of Life,” have attracted support from nearly 200 other tribes and First Nations, plus hundreds of other environmental, cultural, religious, and civil rights groups across the nation and around the world.

As Quakers, we wish to associate ourselves with the deep spiritual and cultural basis for the Protection effort, and with the non-violent behavior of the Tribes and their supporters, even in the face of quite extreme measures by private security forces and local public officials.

We join the appeal to President Obama to revoke all permits for Energy Transfer Partners to construct the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Ann Francis

Janet Smith

Co-Clerks
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