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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GREENLATINOS APPLAUDS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION DECISION TO DENY DAKOTA ACCESS EASEMENT
THE ORGANIZATION APPLAUDS THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP**

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced that it would not be granting an easement under Lake Oahe for the Dakota Access pipeline to cross the Missouri River along the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation. The USACE further stated that it plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to consider alternative routes and the impact on Native American people and values. **In reaction to the announcement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, GreenLatinos issued the following statement:**

“GreenLatinos is elated with the Corps’ decision to deny the Dakota Access Pipeline easement that would have put at risk the critical water source for the Standing Rock people. This is a momentous victory for the Standing Rock Sioux, for the protection of clean water from the threat of dirty energy, and for the strength and power of marginalized communities joining in solidarity triumphing over powerful special interests,” **declared Mark Magaña, President & CEO of GreenLatinos.**

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision is testament to the tenacity, discipline and spirit of the Standing Rock Sioux and all marginalized communities standing in solidarity with the tribe. While we know that the fight is not over, we are prepared to stand together with renewed resolve as the Corps prepares a full environmental review on the issue. We expect and demand an open process that cultivates dialogue and that respects the land, water, and people who depend upon these precious resources,” added **Raul Garcia, Co-Chair of the Environmental Justice, Civil Rights, and Public Input Working Group of GreenLatinos.**

Robert García, Member of the GreenLatinos Board of Directors and a Working Group Co-Chair, emphasized:

“Standing Rock is about more than clean water and land, Standing Rock is about protecting Mother Earth and all her Children. Native Americans stand to lose a Sacred Site, ancient burial ground, and cultural site along with clean water supplies. No one else does. We support the Standing Rock Sioux to engage in respectful nation to nation consultations with the USACE, and enforce their civil rights, human rights, and environmental justice rights. Water is life. Agua es sagrada, y vida es sagrada.”

Finally, GreenLatinos **Executive Vice President & COO, Chris Espinosa,** added: “We applaud Chairman David Archambault II, the tribal elders, and all of the ardent advocates from the Standing Rock community for their leadership. They have demonstrated how we can achieve significant victories and advocate for justice through reflective prayer, peaceful protest, collective solidarity, and the law.”