News Release

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Twin Cities Deliver No Dakota Access Resolutions

Municipal representatives from Minneapolis and St. Paul travel to Sacred Stone Camp to present Standing Rock Sioux Nation with Supportive City Council Adopted Resolutions

When: Monday, September 5, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m. (CT)
Where: Sacred Stone Spirit Camp, Cannonball, North Dakota
What: City of Minneapolis and City of St. Paul representatives present officially approved municipal resolutions in support of the “No Dakota Access” movement to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, environmental protection groups and their allies

September 2, 2016 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Today, through a unanimous vote, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Betsy Hodges passed a resolution backing the efforts led by the Standing Rock Sioux Nation to stop the proposed Dakota Access oil pipeline. The “Supporting Indigenous Resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline” resolution builds on the environmental protection efforts led by Honor the Earth, MN350, and MPIRG which resulted in halting Enbridge’s Sandpiper line – a crude oil pipeline that would have cut through Minnesota’s White Earth Reservation.

The Dakota Access pipeline – a project also financially supported by the Enbridge company – has received weeks of resistance from the Oceti Sakowin, or the Seven Council Fires comprised of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations. The Oceti Sakowin established the Sacred Stone Spirit Camp in Cannon Ball, North Dakota to halt the project due to its lack of environmental review and consultation with Tribal leaders. If built, this line would carry as many as 570,000 barrels of fracked crude oil per day for more than 1,100 miles from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota to Illinois. Hundreds of Minneapolis American Indian Standing Rock Sioux members and descendants as well as residents concerned with climate change applaud the efforts of their municipal
government in backing the over 150 Tribal Governments and First Nations who have come together to protect the land, waters and natural habitat the pipeline would impact.

On Monday at 10:00 a.m. Minneapolis City Council Member Alondra Cano, St. Paul City Council Member Jane Prince’s representative Mary Anne Quiroz, Honor the Earth, MN350 and Danza Mexico Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli of the cultural nonprofit Indigenous Roots will present the official Twin Cities resolutions to Standing Rock Sioux Nation Council Member Dana Yellow Fat and the Sacred Stone Spirit Camp participants. “The White House has recognized the City of Minneapolis for our innovative policies addressing climate change. As such, we are proud to stand with Indigenous people as they resist the most destructive practices of the resource extraction industry thereby helping us to fulfill our commitment to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change,” said Council Member Alondra Cano, chief author of the Minneapolis resolution and the municipal representative for the nation’s largest concentration of urban American Indian families. “Native Americans have been treated poorly by the Government throughout the history of this country,” said Minneapolis Council Member Lisa Goodman, a champion of the resolution and Chair of the Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee. “As elected officials we must work together to take action to fix the broken trust between Native American communities and government, and joining hundreds of tribal nations in passing this resolution of support for Standing Rock is an important step in this ongoing process,” she said.

The Standing Rock Sioux have filed for an injunction in federal court asserting that the requirements for environmental review and tribal consultation were skirted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when they granted a permit to Texas based Energy Transfer Partners, Inc. to begin construction on the pipeline’s crossing of the Missouri River just over a mile upstream of the Tribe’s water intake valves. Winona LaDuke, Executive Director of the Indigenous led environmental group Honor the Earth, has been supporting the camp since it began. “The historic gathering at the Standing Rock reservation is not just about a pipeline, it is a struggle for freedom and dignity, a struggle for the future of a people. This is a moment of opportunity, a moment for cities and nations and people all over the world to stand up and demand that no more rivers be poisoned, and no more people be sacrificed,” said LaDuke.

Last week, the St. Paul City Council passed a similar resolution. To view each city’s actions on this matter you can visit these websites:
