We are a coalition of groups working together on the Standing Rock Reservation to stop the Dakota Access pipeline. We stand united in our support of the grassroots movement that has erupted to protect the water, our sacred sites, our cultures, our future generations, and Mother Earth. We value a diversity of strategies, tactics, and forms of political and spiritual power, but we know there is no substitute for the spirit of resistance in the hearts of the people, translated through courage, into action.

The Red Owl Legal Collective is the legal support team on the ground at the encampment, operating with support from the National Lawyers Guild. Red Owl is committed to serving the legal defense needs of anyone arrested here as part of the resistance to the pipeline, to the best of their ability, given the limited resources available. Red Owl offers its services without personal judgments about the quality, morality, or strategic wisdom of any action, and supports all those involved in the movement equally, regardless of tribal membership, political affiliation, or any other aspect of identity.

The Freshet Collective is an autonomous collective of allies established to raise, manage, and disperse legal defense funds for liberatory grassroots movements. The collective was created to protect individuals and organizations involved in these movements from the fiduciary, legal, and social risks associated with managing legal defense funds. The Freshet Collective created the original online crowdfunding page for the encampment at Standing Rock, “The Sacred Stone Legal Defense Fund,” in August 2016, and is on the ground working to ensure those funds are used for one purpose only: to support any and every individual at the camps arrested in direct actions to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Sacred Stone Camp and Red Warrior Camp are both physical encampments committed to stopping the pipeline through prayer and non-violent direct action. Sacred Stone Camp is the original spirit camp here, established on April 1, 2016, with plans to survive as a permanent cultural camp after the pipeline is stopped. Red Warrior Camp arrived and established itself as part of the larger Oceti Sakowin camp in August, and is the primary group planning and executing direct actions to physically block pipeline construction.
The Oceti Sakowin Youth Council and the International Indigenous Youth Council are protectors upholding our ancestors’ dreams by honoring the Seventh Generation prophecy through unity. The councils are working to protect land, water, and treaty rights; end environmental racism; empower youth in tradition; and rise as leaders in Indian Country through non-violent direct action. They have been on the ground in Standing Rock for months, many since its inception in April.

Honor the Earth and Indigenous Environmental Network are both prominent, national, Indigenous-led environmental non-profit organizations that work on a variety of energy, food, and social policy issues in Indian Country. Both organizations have core staff on the ground supporting the logistics of the campaign against Dakota Access, including working with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the encampments along the Missouri River.

We come from different Nations, and our groups play different roles in this movement, but we stand together in our commitment to supporting grassroots resistance in defiance of the black snake. We commit to working together to ensure, to the best of our ability, that all those arrested for resisting the pipeline have the legal and material resources they need. To win, our strategy must be multi-dimensional, and to that end, we support a diversity of tactics. We will fight in the regulatory process, in the courts, in the media, through our ceremonies, and on the land. No more black snakes. No more poison in our water. No more desecration of our ancestors and sacred sites. No more missing or murdered Indigenous women. This is our moment. We’re not leaving until it’s done.

In solidarity,

The Red Owl Legal Collective
The Freshet Collective
Sacred Stone Camp
Red Warrior Camp
Oceti Sakowin Youth Council
International Indigenous Youth Council
Honor the Earth
Indigenous Environmental Network

Contact the Red Owl Legal Collective at:
Angela Bibens, 720-384-4313, abibens@aol.com
Joe Hayhtorn, 541-578-0153, josephan1@gmail.com