

# National Indian Health Board



## National Indian Health Board Resolution 16-02

### **Supporting Standing Rock Sioux Tribe & Opposition to Dakota Access Pipeline**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), established in 1972, serves all Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the Federal government's trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the unmet health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives are severe and the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives is far below that of the general population of the United States, resulting in an average life expectancy for American Indians and Alaska Natives 4.2 years less than that for the U.S. all races population; and

**WHEREAS**, NIHB is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevention of harm to the health and well-being of Indian people is an essential aspect of the purpose of NIHB; and

**WHEREAS**, water is the foundation of all life on Earth and its preservation is essential to human survival; and

**WHEREAS**, three million gallons of brine spill has occurred on the Blacktail Creek which runs into the Little Muddy River, which runs into the Missouri River, thereby affecting the drinking water and the federal reserved water rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, one million gallons of spill brine has occurred on Lake Sakakawea at Mandaree, which runs into the Missouri River, thereby contaminating the drinking water source and affecting the federal reserved water rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, a 60,000 gallon oil spill has occurred at Glendive which runs into the Missouri River, thereby contaminating the drinking water and the federal reserved water rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaties are binding agreements between the United States and the Lakota Nation and such, principles with regard to compliance with the terms of the treaty apply, including Article II, Proviso six (15 Stat. 635) which requires an assessment of the oil development and damages for trespass occurring on the Missouri River; the National Environmental Protection Act and appropriate Tribal laws, which are being ignored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been engaged in a legal battle to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline from impacting it's cultural, water, and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota Access Pipeline is a 1,168-mile long crude oil pipeline that will transport at last 570,000 barrels of oil each day from North Dakota to Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the Army Corps of Engineers has not carefully analyzed the impact of an oil spill on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe or fully satisfied the National Historic Preservation Act, various environmental statutes, and its trust responsibility to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the current proposed pipeline route crosses under Lake Oahe, just a half mile up from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota Access Pipeline threatens public health and welfare of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and millions of people who rely on the impacted aquifer all the way to New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota Access Pipeline has the potential to cause irreparable environmental damage for over one thousand miles and damage the water supply, health, and well-being of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation as well as thousands of others who depend on water resources in its path; and

**WHEREAS**, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe relies on the waters of the life-giving Missouri River for continued existence and the Dakota Access Pipeline poses serious risk to Mini Sose and to the very survival of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the horizontal direction drilling in the construction of the pipeline would destroy valuable cultural resources of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the NIHB has determined that it supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other tribes in their opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NIHB, as the advocate for health of all 567 federally-recognized tribes, supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and opposes the Dakota Access Pipeline; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NIHB encourages its member organizations and Indian Tribes and Nations nationally to stand united against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016.



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Lester Secatero,  
Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

*Lisa Elgin*

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Lisa Elgin,  
Recording Secretary