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## SB35-16/17: Resolution Regarding the Student Opposition to the Proposed Dakota Access Pipeline

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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana  
Resolution Regarding the Student Opposition to the Proposed Dakota Access Pipeline  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**SB35-16/17**

**Authored by: Sam Forstag, ASUM President; Turquoise Skye Devereaux  
Sponsored by: Meshayla Cox, ASUM Senator; Trail Bundy**

Whereas, There is an ongoing act of civil disobedience being peacefully carried out in and around Cannonball, North Dakota, as part of a national effort to halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) which has been shown to have serious implications on American waterways and indigenous sacred lands;

Whereas, The proposed path of the DAPL crosses the Missouri River approximately a half-mile north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation's border, putting the health, safety, and well-being of residents in jeopardy and threatens the habitability of Tribal land;

Whereas, The proposed route for the DAPL will deliver crude oil across 1,172 miles and crossing rivers, creeks and tributaries at 209 different points; threatening water sources such as the Missouri river that provide for nearly 10 million people, including people from 10 states and from 28 different Native American tribes<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, 5,674 'significant accidents' occurred from 1996 to 2015 involving pipelines carrying crude oil or refined petroleum products resulting in over \$7.5 billion in damages over the 20-year period, according to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the federal agency in charge of overseeing energy transportation in the United States<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, The construction of DAPL without proper consultation with the Sioux Tribes is a direct violation and infringement of Indigenous sovereign rights;

Whereas, The right to peaceful assembly is enumerated in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution;

Whereas, There have been widespread reports of human rights abuses in the crackdown on the water protectors at Standing Rock including mass arrests, the widespread use of tear gas, attack dogs, rubber bullets, and sound cannons, and detention of protectors in substandard facilities<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, Law enforcement from at least five (5) states, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, and Nebraska, as well as private security contractors are reported to have taken part in crackdowns against the water protectors;

Whereas, Reports of human rights abuses have sparked an investigation from the United Nations permanent forum on Indigenous Issues into the legality of such practices;

Whereas, Numerous University of Montana (UM) students and alumni, along with multiple Associated Students of the University (ASUM) Senators, have visited the protest site in Cannonball, North Dakota, to express support and solidarity for this effort;

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.softschools.com/facts/rivers/missouri\\_river\\_facts/2417/](http://www.softschools.com/facts/rivers/missouri_river_facts/2417/)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ictmn.lughstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/DAPL-Magazine-2016\\_PREVIEW\\_r1.pdf](http://ictmn.lughstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/DAPL-Magazine-2016_PREVIEW_r1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/library/data-stats/pipelineincidenttrends>

<sup>4</sup> <http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/10/28/police-from-5-states-escalate-violence-shoot-horses-to-clear-1851-treaty-camp>

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Whereas, Hundreds of protestors gathered in Missoula on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, to express support for the ongoing effort to halt construction of DAPL;

Whereas, The Missoula City Council passed a resolution in support of the protestors at Standing Rock through committee on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and will be considering the resolution as a full body at the November 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting;

Whereas, The ongoing issues surrounding the planned DAPL route and its implications for public health and water quality in the region, rule of law, and civil rights in the United States are of significant interest to the students of UM;

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, that The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) and University of Montana (UM) students stand in solidarity with the water protectors at Standing Rock and their opposition to the DAPL;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM calls upon all members of the campus community and abroad to raise awareness regarding the Indigenous struggle to obtain environmental and social justice both on and off the reservation;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges law enforcement agencies, public officials, and protestors to exercise the utmost restraint going forward and respect the Constitutional right to free assembly, speech, and protest;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges federal and state officials to intervene by any means necessary to halt the construction of the DAPL;

Therefore, Let it Further be Resolved, that ASUM calls upon all local and state governing bodies, including University student bodies, throughout Montana to follow suit and provide support so we may all stand in solidarity and provide political power to our neighboring nations;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, This resolution shall be sent to: Steve Sitting Bear, External Affairs Director for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; John Engen, Mayor of Missoula; Marilyn Marler, Missoula City Council Chair; Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana; Jon Tester, United States Senator; Steve Daines, United States Senator; Ryan Zinke, United States Congressman; Jack Dalrymple, Governor of North Dakota; Barack Obama, President of the United States; Donald Trump, President-Elect of the United States

Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

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95 Elizabeth Engebretson,

96 Chair of the Senate

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