



THE TULALIP TRIBES

Board of Directors:

Mel Sheldon Jr., Chairman
Marie Zackuse, Vice-Chairman
Les Parks, Treasurer
Bonnie Juneau, Secretary
Herman Williams Sr., Board Member
Glen Gobin ti cex, Board Member
Theresa Sheldon, Board Member
Misty Napeahi, General Manager

6406 Marine Dr.
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694
(360) 716-4000
FAX (360) 716-0628

The Tulalip Tribes are the successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and Skykomish tribes and other tribes and band signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott

October 31, 2016

Attorney General Loretta Lynch
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary
of Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
United States Army Corps of engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington DC 20314

**RE: Support for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Urgent Request for Halt to Dakota Access Pipeline Construction**

Dear Attorney General Lynch, Lt General Semonite and Assistant Secretary Darcy:

On behalf of the Tulalip Tribes, I call on the Justice Department and the Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to halt construction and de-escalate the conflict at the Dakota Access Pipeline site in North Dakota. The excessive force and unconstitutional actions by government officials and project proponents against peaceful Native American citizens cannot be tolerated by the federal government.

We write to remind the federal government of its solemn trust responsibility to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Native American tribes with natural and cultural resources directly threatened by the Dakota Access Pipeline Project. We call on the Army Corps of Engineers to deploy an immediate "stop order" on the Dakota Access Pipeline, deny the easement, and provide time so that peace can be restored and meaningful consultation can occur.

We also call on the Department of Justice to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of thousands of Native protectors and allies. We object to the continued violation of Native people's First Amendment rights to protest peacefully. We have seen use of attack dogs, military equipment, excessive force and mass arrests of peaceful water protectors and journalists. These unwarranted and unlawful tactics are unacceptable and cannot continue.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribal government has an obligation to protect water resources on which the health of their people depend. The federal government must acknowledge what is at stake for Native people and work to resolve this conflict on a government-to-government basis, and not through intimidation, brutality and mass arrests.

Despite federal laws and Executive Orders committing the federal agencies to provide meaningful consultation with effected tribes, the permitting process for the Dakota Access Pipeline has been anything but transparent. Tribal consultation did not occur, and even the Department of the Interior's concerns over tribal water supplies and cultural resources were ignored. Given the severe consequences of a pipeline failure in these sensitive areas, a full environmental impact study must be conducted.

We, along with many other Tribal Nations, join in solidarity with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in seeking a halt to the Project so that a respectful dialogue can occur. We look forward to the federal government stepping up to fulfil its role in helping to resolve this conflict in a manner that respects the legitimate sovereign interests of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and ensures that the health, welfare and culture of Native peoples are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mel Sheldon Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mel Sheldon Jr.
Chairman, Tulalip Tribes