

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

TR 2016-65

A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA SUPPORTING THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROTECT TRIBAL RESOURCES, TRIBAL LANDS, AND SACRED CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEMINOLE NATION COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

WHEREAS, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma is federally recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as a Native American Tribe for the purpose of government to government relations, as evidenced by the publication Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, 80 Fed. Reg. 1,942 (Jan. 14, 2015); and

WHEREAS, Article V of the Seminole Nation Constitution empowers the General Council to promote public health, education, and such other services that may contribute to the social and economic advancement of the members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and to negotiate with federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, a company named Energy Transfer Partners is currently constructing an approximately 1,172-mile pipeline to transport domestically produced crude oil from the Bakken and Three Forks oil production areas in North Dakota to terminal facilities in Illinois (the "Dakota Access Pipeline"); and

WHEREAS, despite guarantees of undisturbed use and occupation of reservation lands provided in the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868 (15 Stat. 635), Energy Transfer Partners is building the Dakota Access Pipeline in close proximity to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation lands and across the reservation's main source of drinking water, the Missouri River, in a location immediately above the mouth of the Cannonball River which runs into the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline across the Missouri River endangers both the water sources of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe downstream and also nearby sacred cultural and religious sites honored by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reports that the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers granted the permit allowing for the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in its present route across the Missouri River without proper consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, without assessing any possible adverse effects on sacred cultural and religious sites, and over the protests of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe recently filed litigation, submitted urgent action communications to Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations, and staged peaceful protests all in a concerted effort to oppose and halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline along its present proposed route without consultation with and consent from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2016, the Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe issued a request to all indigenous peoples of the world to send proclamations, resolutions, or letters of support to assist the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in its efforts to stop human rights and treaty violations occurring on and near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation due to the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's fight to protect its reservation lands, its sacred sites, and the natural resources in and around its reservation touches all indigenous peoples as they, likewise, strive to protect their rights to direct and manage all development on or affecting their current and historic lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma hereby supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in its efforts to protect tribal resources, tribal lands, and sacred cultural and religious sites.

CERTIFICATION

PASSED AND APPROVED by the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma this 3rd day of September 2016, at Mekuskey Mission, South of Seminole, Oklahoma, by a vote of 26 Yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstaining, a quorum of Fifteen (15) Council members being present.

ATTEST:



Alvina Coker, General Council Secretary
General Council, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

