



American Indian Institute
Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth
502 West Mendenhall Street, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Phone/Fax: (406) 587-1002 www.twocircles.org

November 30, 2016

Dear Friends of the American Indian Institute,

The Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth stand in alliance with the American Indian Institute in solidarity with the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda – Standing Rock Sioux Nation against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Article VI Clause 2 of the United States Constitution states clearly, “This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.”

The activities of the Dakota Access Pipeline breaches the solemn word of the authority of the Constitution of the United States violating the integrity of the United States and its’ peoples. The Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 and the Sioux Nation Treaty at Fort Laramie of 1868 constitutes the formal relationship between the United States and the Great Sioux Nation.

Now, the militarized aggression at Standing Rock is coming to the attention of the world. The use of the bullmastiff attack dogs is not new to the history of the Americas of our Native peoples. The conquistadors of Spain used those very same dogs against Native peoples of the Americas. Have we not progressed beyond these approaches in the last 500 years?

Our people stand in defense of land and life. Water is life. Common sense must prevail over dollars and cents if we are to survive as a species. Peace.

All of our relations,

Oren Lyons (Onondaga Nation)
Ruchatneet Printup (Tuscarora)
Tł’izishzhini (Diné)
Kuuyaa Tsawa (Taytsugeh Oweengeh)
Lomaviva Emory Holmes (Hopi)
Jose H. Lucero (Tewa)
Wahtweni:neh Freida Jacques (Onondaga Nation)
Thunder Sparks Arleen Adams (Salish/Kootenai)
Clayton Logan (Seneca Nation)
Lisa Powers (Numunu-Comanche)
Tracy Shenandoah (Onondaga Nation)
Fred “Coyote” Downey (Round Valley Indian Reservation)
Leonard Bends (Apsáalooke)