

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION proclaiming the City of Seattle’s Support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s
Opposition to the Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

..body

WHEREAS, the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1,168-mile, 30-inch diameter
pipeline being developed by of Energy Transfer Partners and its affiliates, which would
carry as much as 570,000 barrels per day of Bakken crude from western North Dakota to
Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the DAPL would run across or beneath 209 rivers, creeks and tributaries, including
the Missouri River, which provides drinking water and irrigates agricultural land in
communities across the Midwest, serving nearly 10 million people; and

WHEREAS, the DAPL would also run through the ancestral lands and waters reserved for the
traditional use of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe by the Treaty of Ft. Laramie, including
the Missouri River, burial grounds and gravesites, and other sacred sites of cultural,
religious, and historical significance; and

WHEREAS, Indian Treaties such as the Treaty of Ft. Laramie are recognized by the U.S.
Constitution as “the supreme law of the land,” and require consultation and cooperation
by the United States with its Indian Treaty partner before any federal action is taken that
affects Treaty lands, territories, waters or other resources; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 affirms the need to “protect
and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and
exercise the traditional religions,” particularly in American Indian sacred places; and

1 WHEREAS, Washington State recognizes that American Indian burial grounds and historic
2 graves are “a finite, irreplaceable, and nonrenewable cultural resource, and are an
3 intrinsic part of the cultural heritage of the people of Washington” (RCW 27.44.030);

4 WHEREAS, Articles, 11, 12, and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
5 Indigenous People (UNDRIP), as endorsed by the United States in 2010, affirms that
6 indigenous peoples like the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe possess the right to maintain and
7 protect their culture, religion, practices, and relationship with their “traditionally owned
8 or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories [and] waters”; and

9 WHEREAS, the UNDRIP Article 32 further provides that governments shall consult with
10 indigenous peoples “in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the
11 approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly
12 in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other
13 resources”; and

14 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council proclaimed in 2012 by Resolution 31420 that Seattle is a
15 Human Rights City and is committed to promoting human rights; and

16 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council passed Resolution 31538 in 2014 to recognize the second
17 Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the City of Seattle, in recognition of
18 “the systematic racism towards Indigenous people in the United States” and in “honor
19 [of] our nation’s indigenous roots, history, and contributions”; and

20 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to consult with or obtain the free, prior
21 and informed consent of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as required by the Treaty of Fort
22 Laramie, Executive Order 13175, the UNDRIP Article 10, and other federal and

1 international laws, before issuing a “Mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact” that
2 would result in an easement for horizontal directional drilling for the DAPL; and

3 WHEREAS, any spill of oil into the Missouri River would irreparably harm the Standing Rock
4 Sioux Tribe’s Treaty reserved lands, territories, waters and other resources; burial
5 grounds, gravesites and other sacred sites of cultural, religious, and historical
6 significance; and spiritual relationships and indigenous ways of life; and

7 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Seattle, City Councils of Portland, Oregon, St. Paul and
8 Minneapolis, Minnesota, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians comprised of 59 Indian
9 Nations in the Northwest, and nearly 200 Indian Nations, are among the governmental
10 bodies that have taken formal action to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and
11 oppose the DAPL; NOW, THEREFORE,

12 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
13 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

14 Section 1. The City of Seattle stands in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s
15 opposition to construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) across the Tribe’s ancestral
16 lands, waters and sacred sites.

17 Section 2. The City of Seattle calls upon the United States and the Army Corps of
18 Engineers to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, prior
19 to taking any federal action regarding the DAPL that would harm or destroy the Tribe’s ancestral
20 lands, waters and sacred sites.

21 Section 3. The City of Seattle proclaims that October 10, 2016, Indigenous Peoples’ Day
22 in the City of Seattle, will commemorate and support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s
23 opposition to the DAPL.

