

February 8, 2021

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

Thank you for your administration's early focus on climate change, tribal sovereignty, and racial justice and equity, including your decision to stop the Keystone XL pipeline. We are also grateful for your critical efforts to save lives and address the COVID-19 pandemic that is disproportionately impacting BIPOC communities across our country. As your Administration takes action to address the climate crisis and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities, we respectfully urge you to reverse another harmful Trump Administration decision and immediately shut down the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) during its court-ordered environmental review.

In 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe became the epicenter of a global climate justice movement to stop the illegal construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The pipeline had originally been slated to cross the Missouri River north of Bismarck, ND, yet the risk of an oil spill on the city's 90% white inhabitants was deemed too great. The new crossing site shifted the risk to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, in a location of key religious and cultural importance, including the burial grounds of their ancestors. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved several of the required permits without conducting an Environmental Impact Statement or adequately consulting with the Tribe.

After several months of peaceful demonstrations and the advocacy of tens of millions of Americans, President Obama listened to the demands of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He declined to issue the final pipeline permit. Then the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced they would conduct a full environmental review, which would focus on the Tribe's treaty rights. However, Trump stopped the review and fast tracked the pipeline hours after he took office, further violating tribal sovereignty.

During the next four years, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe, and Oglala Sioux Tribe continued their legal fight, making the case that the pipeline was illegal. In March 2020, the U.S. District Court ruled that the pipeline was operating without the proper permits and needed to have a full environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Court ordered the U.S. Army Corps to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. In July 2020, the Court ordered the pipeline be shut down. After an appeal, on January 27th, days after your Inauguration, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the pipeline is operating illegally and gave your Administration the authority to shut down the pipeline. The U.S. District Judge set a hearing on February 10th to discuss the final ruling and to ask your Administration whether you will shut down the pipeline or allow it to operate illegally without a permit.

We urge you to remedy this historic injustice and direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately shut down the illegal Dakota Access Pipeline while the Environmental Impact Statement process is conducted, consistent with the D.C. District Court's decision and order. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps must ensure a robust environmental review with significant tribal consultation, tribal consent, and a thorough risk analysis.

With your leadership, we have a momentous opportunity to protect our water and respect our environmental laws and the rights of Indigenous people. This is our moment.

Mni Wiconi. Water is life.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rodgers, Athlete

Aaryaman Singhal, Co-Founder, Sunrise Movement Dallas

Abby Mnookin, Co-Director, 350 Vermont

Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region

Adam Scott, Director, Shift Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health

Alex Beal, Artist

Alexis Bhagat, Writer

Alexis Saenz, Executive Director and Chapter Representative, International Indigenous Youth Council Los Angeles Chapter

Ali Hart, Producer

Allie Rosenbluth, Campaigns Director, Rogue Climate

Alysia Reiner, Actress

Alyssa Milano, Actor, Producer, Activist

Amanda Kiger, Executive Director, River Valley Organizing

Amy Schumer, Performer

Amy Wasielewski, Artist

Anathea Chino, Co-founder and Executive Director, Advance Native Political Leadership

Andrew Hinz, Writer

Anne D Burt, Founder, Down to Earth Storytelling

Anthony Diaz, Co-founder, Newark Water Coalition

Anya Rous, Documentary Producer

Ashley Funk, Executive Director, Mount Watershed Association

Assia Boundaoui, Journalist, Filmmaker

Ava DuVernay, Filmmaker, ARRAY

Basav Sen, Climate Policy Director, Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Beka Economopoulos, Executive Director, The Natural History Museum
Blair Nelsen, Executive Director, Waterspirit
Bob Guldin, Writer, Editor
Bobbi Jean Three Legs, Climate Justice Divestment Organizer, Seeding Sovereignty
Brenda Jo McManama, Organizer, Indigenous Environmental Network
Brook Lenker, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance
Bruce Cohen, Producer, We Stand United
Cameron Balber, Executive Director, Consumer Watchdog
Carmi Orenstein, Co-Founder, Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Carole Blodgett, Founder, Director, Water is Life Walks and Nurture The Children
Carolyn Raffensperger, Executive Director, Science and Environmental Health Network
Catherine Gund, Filmmaker
Chelsea Handler, Comedian
Cher, Artist
Cheryl Barnds, Co-Chair, Rapid Shift Network
Cheryl Nenn, Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Chris Evans, Actor
Chris Hemsworth, Actor
Chrissie Castro, Executive Director, California Native Vote Project
Christina Papagjika, Entertainment Producer
Crystal Echo Hawk, Executive Director, IllumiNative
Cyndi Lauper, Musician
Damon Motz-Storey, Health Climate Program Director, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Daniel Crawford, Chair, Roanoke Group, Sierra Club
Daniel Taylor, Co-Founder, Concerned Residents of Oxford
Dany Sigwalt, Executive Director, Power Shift Network
Daphne Wysham, Director, Methane Action
Dave Matthews, Musician
David Caicedo, Co Executive Director, Florida Student Power Network
David Kyp Malone, Artist, Musician
Dawnetter Scott, Youth Director, Mills Church
Debbie New, Creative Director, Climate Finance Action
Diana Wright, People of Albany United for Safe Energy
Dianna Cohen, Cofounder, CEO, Plastic Pollution Coalition
Dineen O'Rourke. Campaign Manager, 350PDX
Don Cheadle, Actor
Dorian Fulvio, 350NYC

Doug Couchon, Co-Founder, Coalition to Protect New York
Dwayne Perry, Chief of Ramapough Lenape Nation
Ed Helms, Actor/Producer
Elizabeth Bast, Executive Director, Oil Change International
Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer, The Climate Center
Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, Executive Director, Western Environmental Law Center
Erika Thi Patterson, Campaign Director, Action Center on Race and the Economy
Evie Lovett, Artist
Fran Teplitz, Executive Co-Director, Green America
Gail Neustadt, Writer, Actor
George Matthis, President, River Guardian Foundation
Georgina Shanley, Co-Founder, Citizens United for Renewable Energy
Gracie Brett, Organizer, Divest Ed
Hannah Shapiro, Artist
Harriet Shugarman, Executive Director, ClimateMama
Heather Rosmarin, Executive Director, InterAmerican Clean Energy Institute
Isabella Zizi, Northern Cheyenne, Arikara, Muskogee Creek, Idle No More SF Bay
Jackie Nuñez, Founder, The Last Plastic Straw
Jade Begay, Climate Justice Director, NDN Collective
James Masino, Chair, Climate Reality NYC Metro Chapter
Jane Fonda, Actor, Activist, Fire Drill Fridays
Jane Kleeb, Founder, Bold Alliance
Janet MacGillivray, Executive Director, Seeding Sovereignty
Janet Passanante, Artist
Janet Myers-Newbury, Artist
Jasmine Sanders, Executive Director, Our Climate Education Fund
Jason Momoa, Actor
Jaz Whiteley- Steel, Artist
Jeani Murray, Advisor, Bold ReThink
Jeffery Smith, Co-Chair, 350 Montana
Jennifer Connelly, Actress
Jennifer Dube, Climate Organizer, 350 New Hampshire
Jerney Nicholds, Climate and Energy Program Director, WildEarth Guardians
Jess Wallach, Campaigns Co-Director, 350 Seattle
Jessica Girard, Executive Director, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Joanie Steinhaus, Gulf Program Director, Turtle Island Restoration Network
Joaquin Phoenix, Actor
Jodi Archambault, Former Obama Advisor and Citizen of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Jodie Evans, Co-Founder, CODEPINK

Joel Garcia, Artist, Cultural Organizer, Director, Meztli Projects
Jonathon Westin, Executive Director, New York Communities for Change
Joseph Campbell, President, Gas Free Seneca
John Medeski, Musician
Joseph Uehlein, President, Labor Network for Sustainability
Josh Gad, Actor
Joshua Cooper, Executive Director, Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
Julian NoiseCat, Writer
Julie Bergman, Filmmaker
Julia Walsh, We Stand United
Karen Bearden, Triangle Coordinator, 350 Triangle
Karena Gore, Director, Center for Earth Ethics
Kate Ogden, Advocacy and Movement Building Manager, Seventh Generation
Katherine Versluys, Artist, Photographer
Kathy Smail, Executive Director, Glasswaters Foundation
Kayla Soren, Executive Director, International Student Environmental Coalition
Kerry Washington, Actor
Kierán Suckling, Executive Director, Center for Biological Diversity
Kisha Bari, Photographer
Laura Dawn, Founder, ART NOT WAR
Leonardo DiCaprio, Actor
Leoyla Cowboy Giron, Executive Director, Water Protector Legal Collective
Lesile Cagan, Social Change Organizer
Lilakoi Moon, Artist
Linda Sarsour, Activist, Organizer, MPower Change
Lisa Tyson, Director, Long Island Progressive Coalition
Logan Burke, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Energy
Louie Psihoyos, Filmmaker and Executive Director, Oceanic Preservation Society
Dr. Lucky Tran, Managing Director, March for Science
Lynda Majors, Chair, Preserve Montgomery County VA
Malik Yusef Jones, Entertainer,
Marcela Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Founder, Executive Director, Azul
Marie Venner, Co Chair, CatholicNetwork, US
Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director, New Energy Economy
Marisa Tomei, Actor, We Stand United
Mark Dixon, Co-Founder, No Petro PA
Mark Dunlea, Chair, Green Education and Legal Fund
Mark Ruffalo, Actor, Director, Producer, We Stand United

Mark J Palmer, Associate Director, International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
Melaie Winter, Founder, Director, The River Project
Melinda Tuhus, Beyond Extreme Energy
Micah Parkin, Executive Director 350 Colorado
Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club
Michael Malcom, Executive Director, The People's Justice Council
Michael Stocker, President, Seven Circles Foundation
Michelle Cook, Founder, Divest Invest Protect
Mike Davis, CEO, Global Witness
Dr. Mildred McClain, Executive Director, Citizens For Environmental Justice
Mishel Prada, Actor
Mitch Bernard, President and Chief Counsel, Natural Resource Defense Council
Molly Gochman, Artist
MorningStar Black, Photographer
Muhammad Reza, Coordinator, People's Coalition For The Right To Water
Nadira Foster-Williams, Actress, Artist, Divestment Organizer
Nancy Treviño, Executive Director, Presente
Naomi Klein, Writer
Nathalie Molina Niño, CEO, O³
Nicole Donaghy, Executive Director, North Dakota Native Vote & Enrolled citizen of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Nicole Kement, President, 350 Silicon Valley
Nik Evasco, Climate Organizer, Program Manager, 350 Bay Area
Nora Howard, Artist
Orlando Bloom, Actor
Osprey-Orielle Lake, Executive Director, Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
Own Luck, Photographer
Paola Mendoza, Filmmaker, Actor
Patrica Hine, President, 350 Eugene
Patrick McCully, Climate and Energy Program Director, Rainforest Action Network
Patti Wood, Executive Director, Grassroots Environmental Education
Paula Hood, Co-Director, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
Paul Bettany, Actor
Pennie Opal Plant, Co-Founder, Movement Rights
Peter McCartney, Climate Campaigner, Wilderness Committee
Peter Yarrow, Performer, Folksinger, Peter, Paul and Mary
Piper Perabo, Actor
Purly Rae Gates, CEO, Clean Energy Now Texas

Queen Quet, Founder, Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
Rachel Nortz, Producer
Rahna Epting, Executive Director, MoveOn.org
Rania Batrice, Interim Executive Director, March for Science
Rajasvini Bhansali, Executive Director, Solidaire Action Fund
Rebecca Chaiklin, Filmmaker, We Stand United
Rebekah Sale, Executive Director, Property Rights and Pipeline Center
Rev. Nathan Empsall, Campaigns Director, Faithful America
RL Miller, DNC member, Co-founder, Climate Hawks Vote
Robert Crawford, Artist
Robin Martin, Allegheny County Organizer, Food & Water Watch
Robin Schneider, Executive Director, Texas Campaign for the Environment
Robert Downey Jr., Actor
X Jo Horse, Executive Director, Western Native Voice
Rooney Mara, Actor
Ryan Reynolds, Actor
Sandra Kaptain, Chair, Elgin Green Groups 350.org
Sandy Emerson, Board President, Fossil Free California
Sarah Eagle Heart, Oglala Lakota Activist & Organizer
Sarah Silverman, Comedian
Scarlett Johansson, Actress
Schele Williams, Director
Shannon Biggs, Co-Founder, Movement Rights
Sharon Hoffman, Founder, 350Merced
Shailene Woodley, Actress
Sherry Pollack, Co-founder, 350Hawaii
Steven Trent, Founder, Executive Director, Environmental Justice Foundation
Susan Pritzker, Philanthropist
Susan Hendershot, President, Interfaith Power & Light
Suzannah Glidden, Co-Founder, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Taboo Nawasha, Artist, Activist, Black Eyed Peas
Tamara Roske, Executive Director, Earth Guardians
Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Environmental Advocate
Terisa Siagatonu, Artist
Thomas Lopez, Chairman, NAC Colorado
Timothy Judson, Executive Director, Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Tina Lieberman, Chair, People's Climate Movement - Capital Region
Todd Haynes, Filmmaker
Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network

Uzo Aduba, Artist

Varshini Prakash, Executive Director, Sunrise Movement

Virginia Necochea, Executive Director, New Mexico Environmental Law Center

Wenonah Hauter, Founder and Executive Director, Food & Water Watch

Wes Gillingham, Associate Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper

Yvonne Russo, Producer

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