

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: A resolution of the Duluth Indigenous Commission, a mayor appointed commission in Duluth Mn. representing the indigenous community, writing this in solidarity with Standing Rock Sioux tribe. In their opposition of the Dakota access pipeline (DAPL)

Whereas: We are a mayor appointed indigenous commission, comprised of indigenous people, having a voice for the mayor's office. We speak on behalf of the Indigenous population and our allies in Duluth, MN. And,

Whereas: this resolution echoes the voice of our indigenous people and allies. we as indigenous people feel we are born to the water first inside our mother's womb. And the water protects and nurtures us until we take our first breath, therefore it is our responsibility and obligation to protect the very water that protects our life, and the lives of future children. And,

Whereas: Indigenous People have suffered physical and mental health issues due to historical trauma removing us from our tribal lifestyles. The removal of our traditional way of life, including our traditional foods and medicines, continues to have a cause and effect in a negative way. We resolve to protect the remaining cultural aspects of our well-being. It is our implicit goal to preserve these cultural ways for our future generations. And,

Whereas: Lake Superior comprises of 10% of the fresh water on the surface of the earth. We, the people, understand the cultural and historic importance of Lake Superior and its significance to the mutual feelings of the Lakota people in regards to their Lake Oahe and the Missouri River. And,

Whereas: Lake Superior and our 10,000 lakes is a tremendous part of our economy due to tourism and we feel that it would be a blight on our region to damage our waterways or to idly stand by and watch any of the living water on our earth put at risk. Our culturally significant areas are in jeopardy from Enbridge and copper nickle mining (Polymet) and stand by Standing Rock in regards to their concern of the drinking water for over 17+ million people. And,

Whereas: Should the upcoming administration's "100 day plan" go into effect, we will once again be fighting in our beautiful state the Keystone XL pipeline. We stand in solidarity with Standing Rock and desire to preserve our environment from current and future assaults. And,

Whereas: We hold that renewable jobs are gaining and more obtainable for future workers, than the short term jobs of pipelines and mining. We seek to achieve a high level of renewable energy, as opposed to the continued use of fossil fuels.

Whereas: As citizens of the United States, we have an obligation to speak out when human rights violations occur. It is our responsibility to insure that such violations are addressed and those responsible for said violations are prosecuted. And,

Whereas: The Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation, located in central North and South Dakota, is home to the Lakota and Dakota people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe who depend on the life-sustaining waters from the Missouri River and Lake Oahe and whose ancestral remains are protected within their historical territory off and on the reservation. We also respect the Dakota and Lakota people residing in the City of Duluth, and the significant impact facing them. And,

Whereas: The United States Army Corps of Engineers, without tribal consultation and despite strong opposition from the Standing Rock Indian Tribe, failed to use due diligence by allowing the Dakota Access Pipeline to compromise the tribes cultural resources, burial sites, and life-sustaining water resources. And,

Whereas: The State of Minnesota and the State of North Dakota, along with both South Dakota and Canada, share a common concern for EPA listed endangered species, which number into the teens, and it is our obligation as citizens of Minnesota, to protect those listed as endangered and threatened per findings from the EPA. And,

Whereas: The Ojibwe People of this region, in respect and honoring of the big drums gifted by the Lakota people, stand in Unity with our Lakota and Dakota brothers in sisters in their plight to preserve culturally significant areas, tribal and treaty rights and lands, the living waters, and stand shoulder to shoulder with those with whom we have a spiritual bond. And,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We stand shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with the Water Protectors, The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their supporting tribal Nations. We do so in recognition of the Water Protectors who are willing to lay down their lives in order to protect the living water for all people.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY on November 21, 2016 by the Duluth Indigenous Commission

Chair Babette Sandman

Secretary Carl J. Nelson