



Iowa Commission on Native American Affairs est. May 12, 2008



Iowa Department of Human Rights

321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Tel 515-242-6334
Fax 515-242-6119

October 10, 2016

RE: Stop the Dakota Access Pipeline

I am writing to you today to voice our opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. We support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other communities in their fight against this dangerous and destructive pipeline.

Oil pipelines break, spill and leak—it's not a question of if, it's a question of where and when. But the Army Corps never took a hard look at the impacts of an oil spill on the Tribe, as the law requires. Yet a route close to Bismarck was deemed not viable due to the proximity to Bismarck, and the fact that the route crossed through or in close proximity to several wellhead source water protection areas, including areas that contribute water to municipal water supply wells. The environmental impacts of the Dakota Access pipeline include damage during construction to wildlife, waterways, and agriculture serving Native communities in Iowa. Further, a leak or spill from the pipeline would impact the waters that Iowa Tribes/Nations, and individual tribal members residing in the area, rely upon for drinking, for livestock, for food gardens, and for other purposes. The route of the proposed pipeline would cut through and damage ancestral lands of religious and cultural significance, damage the natural environment, and risk serious pollution with impacts on Native communities' drinking water supplies and agriculture.

We stand with Standing Rock and believe the Tribe's sacred lands and resources must be protected now and forevermore.

Sincerely,

Karen Mackey

Karen Mackey
Chair, Iowa Commission on Native American Affairs
Iowa Department of Human Rights