



November 7, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Chief of Staff to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear President Obama,

Dear Mr. McDonough and Assistant Secretary Darcy,

I write to you on behalf of hundreds of young, evangelical Christians across the country who are closely following the ongoing developments around the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and the acts of resistance from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. We are deeply concerned not only with the acts of violence and escalation at the protest camps, but also with the larger regulatory process by which the DAPL has been approved for construction.

We urge you to immediately halt construction of the pipeline until a thorough Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) can be produced in order to fully account for the project's full range of costs, including those associated with the projected greenhouse gas emissions expected to be produced over the lifetime of DAPL.

It has been well-documented that over the course of the DAPL project, the Army Corps of Engineers received petitions from several federal agencies, including the DOJ, the DOI, and the Council on Historic Preservation. These petitions urged the Corps to conduct a thorough Environmental Impact Study in order to fully account for the potential risks and threats presented by the project. Given the scope and scale of DAPL, it is almost universally agreed that an EIS would be the most appropriate assessment of its potential impact. Indeed, the proper next step after a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) is conducted is almost always to follow up with a more rigorous EIS. However, due to the Finding of No Significant Impact and the particular ways in which Energy Transfer and Dakota Access has procured the permits for DAPL, only an EA has been produced. We find this deeply troubling.

What is more, under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is given the authority to create guidelines by which federal agencies are to produce EA and

EIS reports. Recently, the CEQ released new guidelines instructing federal agencies to incorporate in their EIS a thorough evaluation of the projected costs associated with the greenhouse gas emissions of a potential project. Since DAPL was not subject to an EIS, its detrimental climate impacts have not been taken into account during the permit process. Were DAPL to be subjected to an EIS climate assessment, the project would prove to be exceedingly more dangerous and costly than it is currently believed to be.

Perhaps the lack of an EIS, though procedurally dubious, would not be the violation of justice that it has become had the EA been produced according to protocol and best practices. It has become abundantly clear, however, that the Environmental Assessment for the DAPL project was not conducted in this way. As such, its Finding of No Significant Impact must be called into question. One of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's primary concerns has consistently been that they were not meaningfully engaged in either the permit approval or the EA process for the DAPL project. Given the disenfranchisement of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe from the EA process and the significant climate pollution that will result from the DAPL, a more rigorous EIS must be produced, in a transparent and participatory way, before construction continues.

Nearly 150 young Christians from across the country add their voice to this letter and call on you to halt construction of this project and to order a thorough EIS of the pipeline. We do this because we believe that our faith calls us to love God, to love God's earth, and to love our neighbor. We cannot stand silently by as our indigenous brothers and sisters put their lives and bodies on the line in the fight to assert their treaty rights and to protect their land, water, culture, and people. Our commitment to the gospel of justice and reconciliation calls us to solidarity. We add our voices to theirs and urge you to do everything in your power to make sure that the potential risks and externalities of DAPL are properly assessed and that affected communities are meaningfully included in this important decision-making process.

We urge you to immediately halt construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline until a thorough and transparent Environmental Impact Statement can be produced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Meyaard-Schaap". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kyle Meyaard-Schaap
National Organizer and Spokesperson
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action