**Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee Minute**

**in Solidarity with the**

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline**

**Background**The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) was proposed to cross beneath the Missouri River near Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota. When the people of that capital city protested that their water might be contaminated the local tribes’ waters by a spill from the pipeline, the proposed route was moved south—where a spill could contaminate Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s waters instead, and sites sacred to the Tribe could be disturbed. When the tribe identified sacred lands, including burial sites, needing protection from the pipeline disturbance, the company building it promptly bulldozed those exact sites. The company’s security service used attack dogs against peaceful protestors, causing bloody injuries among the protestors. The Governor of North Dakota called out the National Guard to keep the peace, yet the peaceful people, burial sites, and sacred lands were not protected.

**Minute**The BYM IAC supports the sovereign government and people of the Stand Rock Sioux Sioux Tribe as they wage a nonviolent, legal battle against those who would endanger their heritage and their future natural resources. The wise leaders and their supporters are strong in spirit and wisdom, in patience and in vision. The Lakota and Dakota people, with their allies, have inspired unity among Native nations and others in their quest to save their lands and people from harm. Unlike many political leaders, they are waging this moral and legal struggle not for themselves, but for future generations.

The BYM IAC joins the Standing Rock Tribe and its allies in seeking full tribal consultation on a government-to-government basis, as is legally required by treaty and law on any and all matter that relate to or may affect their lands, people, or traditional homelands. We urge the President and the federal executive branch agencies to honor the Federal Trust Responsibility to the indigenous people of our country and to *immediately* act to preserve the burials, lands, and resources of the Standing Rock nation now and in the future. While we are encouraged by the decision by the United States Departments of the Interior, Justice, and Army to suspend pipeline construction near Lake Oahe. This is a suspension not a revocation, so there is no guarantee that construction will not resume. We must continue to show our support in words and deeds until the matter is justly settled. Treaty rights and preservation of indigenous sacred sites must be honored for the Standing Rock Tribe and all Native nations.

May we all learn to make wise decisions to benefit future generations. In the words of the Lakota, Mitakuye Oyasin—We Are All Related.

**Suggested Actions for Friends**
\* Donations are welcome and useful. See the following official website for details:

<http://standingrock.org/news/standing-rock-sioux-tribe--dakota-access-pipeline-donation-fund/>

 The law suits are likely to continue for a long time and need support. A school has been established at the protest site. Please see that website be needed donations; they change over time. Let your conscience be your guide.

\* Write letters! Write letters to the editors of local and national papers. State your interest in this issue and urge them to report on it. It is amazing that media outlets don’t think people care, or think the Standing Rock issue is a local matter. It is not. It is a matter of treaties. It is a respect between governments—tribal and federal. It is an issue of government protection of all citizens. Write to your Congressional delegation, and to the President. Stress the points just mentioned. Particularly eastern congressional contacts seem to think we in the east don’t care about Native issues. They need to be educated. Do it!

\* Follow what is happening on social media, especially Twitter, though also Facebook and other sources. Videos and news have come out quickly on those outlets. Earthjustice is a primary source of legal support for the Standing Rock Tribe’s litigation on the pipeline issue. More information on the background and litigation may be found at:

<http://earthjustice.org/features/faq-standing-rock-litigation>

\* Talk about it. Talk to friends, colleagues, people you meet. Too many people are unaware of what is happening at and to Standing Rock. Most are sympathetic, and some may become active supporters, though they don’t know what they don’t know, so help educate them.

\* If you are so moved, join protests. Some are held in Washington, D.C. There are others held elsewhere. And some people may be moved to journey to Standing Rock to show their support in person. They will be welcomed.