

Soto Zen Buddhist Association



Mr. David Archambault II, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building 1, N. Standing Rock Avenue
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

September 1, 2016

Dear Chairman Archambault,

I write you representing members of the Soto Zen Buddhist Association, teachers and priests in the Soto Zen Buddhist tradition in America, to express our support and deep gratitude for the Standing Rock Lakota people and all the other native peoples, now more than 150 other tribes, gathering to block the Dakota Access Pipeline. We salute your courage, resisting this threat to your ancient tribal lands and to the health and safety of all people downstream on the Missouri River who may be poisoned by spills from this oil pipeline. Such spills have been frequent in similar pipelines. The effects of this oil, should it reach refineries and ports, will be to further damage our climate and the natural habitat of our mother earth. We must curtail our reliance on fossil fuels and transform our sources of energy. The whole world and future generations are threatened, as species extinction increases.

The Buddha sat on the ground and touched the earth to witness his awakening. By standing up against this pipeline and the danger of fossil fuel the Lakota and other indigenous peoples are showing the courage all of us require in order to protect our earth. You teach us what it means to belong to the earth. We thank you and offer our full support. We will contact government officials and ask them to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline and honor treaty agreements with the Lakota people, and to protect the water and land of all peoples.

At this time of crisis on our planet, we celebrate the heroic message of indigenous people around the world, leading the struggle to find new sustainable ways to care for and heal the earth. We encourage all people of spirit to join with you.

With deep bows of gratitude and respect,

Rev. Hozan Alan Senauke,
President, Soto Zen Buddhist Association

*SZBA c/o Shogen Danielson
PO Box 1971
Carmel Valley, CA 93924*

Contact notes for the SZBA/Standing Rock Letter

Above is SZBA's letter to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe supporting their efforts to block the Dakota Access Pipeline. As the letter says, "We will contact government officials and ask them to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline and honor treaty agreements with the Lakota people," you may wish to visit this site, which includes suggested calls and emails to Congress, specific people in the White House and the Army Corps of Engineers, and an up-to-date summary on the legal situation.

<http://standingrock.org/news/call-for-support--stand-with-standing-rock/>

Call the White House comment line ([202-456-1111](tel:202-456-1111)), or sign the following petition to the White House to stop construction of this pipeline.

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/stop-construction-dakota-access-pipeline-which-endangers-water-supply-native-american-reservations>

You may also wish to sign the Moveon.org petition to North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp, who claims to be a "strong and vocal advocate for North Dakota's tribes" but who has so far refused to take a stand on the pipeline. Tell Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND): Oppose the Dakota Access Bakken Pipeline, which threatens sacred lands and waters of the Standing Rock Sioux.

http://pac.petitions.moveon.org/sign/senator-heidi-heitkamp?mailing_id=35313&source=s.icn.em.cr&r_by=1391209