



October 29-30, 2016: Labor Mobilization in Support of Standing Rock, First Nations, in Opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline

“We at Oceti Sakowin Camp welcome any and all support from our Union brothers and sisters. This camp stands to protect our sacred water and support a new energy paradigm, jobs and work in green energy fields. We welcome your support in any ways you feel appropriate, join us in paving a new road to a sustainable future for many future generations.” --Message from Standing Rock Council to Labor for Standing Rock, 10/13/26.

In response to calls from Standing Rock, please join a coordinated labor mobilization on the weekend of October 29-30!

Further information is below.

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The First Nation’s courageous fight taking place against the Dakota Access Pipeline has ignited a world’s attention. This struggle has become most focused at the water protector’s camp located within the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. It contrasts an inherently dangerous project of the fossil fuel industry with the protection of the local and global environment, Native American sovereignty, and the necessity of a sustainable world.

For our sisters and brothers within the unions and the entire working class, the conflict becomes one of dangerous, fleeting employment that will inevitably destroy our planet, and the possibility of full employment to build safe energy and prosperity for all.

With this in mind we recognize that the recent resolution of the AFL-CIO leadership in support of the Dakota Access pipeline is inherently misguided and in conflict with First Nations, our common environment, and the interests of people worldwide. In addition, the use of force against the people at Standing Rock mirrors the very attacks we have endured through our own history of building our unions.

At the same time, solidarity with Standing Rock has been voiced by growing number of labor bodies, including:

- Amalgamated Transit Union
- American Federation of Teachers Local 2121 -- City College of San Francisco Faculty Union
- Border Agricultural Workers
- California Faculty Association
- Communications Workers of America
- Industrial Workers of the World
- IWW Environmental Unionism Caucus

• Labor Coalition for Community Action (A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and Pride at Work)

- Labor for Palestine
- National Nurses United
- New York State Nurses Association
- National Writers Union/UAW Local 1981
- Service Employees International Union
- United Electrical Workers
- SEIU 503 OPEU

To escalate this growing solidarity, we call on workers everywhere join us for actions on the weekend of October 29-30, 2016, including the following activities:

At Standing Rock:

- Assemble at Standing Rock camp for a labor procession and entrance Saturday, October 29, 10am
- Mid-day lunch gathering to share information on the status and location of pipeline work
- Afternoon actions (picket lines, flyering of pipeline workers etc.)
- Rally back to Standing Rock camp Saturday night for music, discussion, and cultural exchange
- Sunday, October 30 – Possible morning actions, people depart during the day to make it home for Monday work

Elsewhere:

- Post individual or group solidarity selfies of picket signs with labor affiliation, location, and common tagline: #LaborForStandingRock
- Hold local labor solidarity events

With the future of the environment, the rights of First Nations, and the health of the working class at stake, these subsequent actions will help regenerate a labor movement based on the vision of a just, sustainable, and prosperous world for all.

Please join us.

#LaborForStandingRock
#StandWithStandingRock
#NoDAPL
#MniWiconi
#SolidarityForever
#greenunionism

Labor For Standing Rock: <https://www.facebook.com/Labor-For-Standing-Rock-1152693268109852/>

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Union labor donated: Oct. 26, 2016

Union Talking Points Against the Dakota Access Pipeline

Labor for Standing Rock @Union Camp, October 29-20, 2016

Indigenous Rights

- Some supporters of the Dakota Access pipeline have argued that some indigenous tribes support fossil fuel projects (or even profit from them). This is true, but irrelevant. The vast majority of those opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline, including almost all of the indigenous people are not in support of such arrangements, but even if they are, they still believe that this project is harmful to their communities and will not benefit the greater good.
- Some have argued that “the union movement must be unified, and opposing Dakota Access Pipeline splits the labor movement”; we argue the opposite: that supporting the Dakota Access Pipeline isolates the labor movement from the vast majority of the working class who oppose its construction.
- There are many rank and file members in the Building Trades who're also indigenous people; because of the position taken by the union officialdom, these members are being forced to choose between loyalty to their union officials and their tribes.
- Many unions, representing many more workers than those represented by the building trades oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline; additionally, many rank and file members of the Building Trades oppose it; one could convincingly argue that it's in fact the Building Trades who're splitting the labor movement.
- Historically, many union officials on the wrong side of history have made similar arguments against unions supporting the right of women to vote, the end of racial segregation, gay marriage, anti-war protests, Palestinian rights, and other environmental struggles. These officials have been wrong each time in the past, and there is no reason to think that they're any less wrong presently.
- Some of the same tactics being used against pipeline protesters were historically used, by the bosses, to repress union organizing efforts and other struggles for social justice.



Jobs

- Most of the jobs on the Dakota Access Pipeline are temporary - once the pipeline is built, there will be very few permanent jobs maintaining the pipeline.¹
- Most of the temporary jobs are being filled by journeymen from outside of the region.
- More union and/or building trades jobs, can be created by repairing America's existing, crumbling infrastructure, including existing pipelines, especially fresh water mains and sewer systems.²
- Solar and wind power create more direct jobs per unit of energy than fossil fuels and nuclear power jobs.³
- There are already more direct, permanent jobs available in the renewable energy field than in fossil fuels.

¹ http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/sites/ilr.cornell.edu/files/GLI_keystoneXL_Reportpdf.pdf. Although this study was for the Keystone XL Pipeline, it is very similar to the Dakota Access Pipeline, and therefore there is no reason to think that the numbers will be substantially different.

² http://www.labor4sustainability.org/files/_kxl_main3_11052013.pdf

³ <https://ecology.iww.org/node/10>

- While many of the renewable energy jobs are not union jobs, the labor movement didn't come into existence through the altruism of the employing class; the workers had to organize unions on their own, and in any case, these new, renewable energy jobs are being created now, with or without the support of the labor movement.
- There are organizations, led by workers themselves, who are helping to transition fossil fuel infrastructure workers into renewable energy careers at comparable wages and working conditions, with directly transferable skills, and they can do the same for workers engaged in building the Dakota Access Pipeline.⁴
- Just because a job is “union” doesn't mean it's “just”. If the mass incarceration facilities had been constructed using union labor, would unions be wrong in opposing the construction of those mass incarceration facilities? Some might argue that this is not a comparable situation, but the indigenous people's whose land this is feel differently, and given the issue of global warming, the comparison is actually very apropos.

Energy Needs

- The oil to be produced from the Bakken Shale is not needed for “energy independence”:
- There is currently a glut of cheap oil and natural gas on the market; it has caused Brent Crude oil prices to collapse from a high of \$114 per barrel in October 2014 to a low of \$27 per barrel in March 2016 and it has only recently rebounded to around \$50 per barrel; there is no return to \$114 per barrel anywhere in the near future. The collapse of the oil market and the abundance of cheap natural gas has resulted in the loss of approximately 200,000+ oil workers' jobs worldwide since October 2014.⁵
- The glut of cheap oil and natural gas, coupled with changing economic conditions in China has resulted in the collapse of the coal industry, thus resulting in the loss of 10,000s of coal mining jobs.
- Most of the oil to be produced from Bakken Shale is intended for exports, rather than domestic use. Renewable energy (wind, solar, small scale hydro-electric, geothermal, tidal, and wave power) coupled with conservation can meet all of the needs of the united states by 2050, therefore we can easily transition away from fossil fuels sources beginning now.⁶

Global Warming

- According to scientific experts, global warming is real and caused by human agency, particularly the richest 10% of humanity, many of whom profit from greedy fossil fuel corporations.⁷
- In order to avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming, the rise in global temperature must not exceed 2°C, and there is broad consensus that a 1½°C limit is a more likely high end threshold.⁸
- However, according to a study (by various organizations), if all of the currently existing fossil fuel reserves and infrastructure (including all currently existing oil, coal, gas, shale, and tar sands fields, all existing refineries, all existing pipelines, and all existing supply chains) are exploited, humanity will exceed the 2°C limit, therefore any new fossil fuel projects, including the Dakota Access Pipeline, will overshoot that limit.⁹

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⁴ <http://www.ironandearth.org/>, <http://www.labor4sustainability.org/>, <https://leapmanifesto.org/en/the-leap-manifesto/>, and <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/>

⁵ <http://money.cnn.com/2016/08/04/investing/200000-oil-jobs-lost/>

⁶ <https://web.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/CountriesWWS.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/extreme-carbon-inequality>

⁸ <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09122015/cop21-paris-limit-global-warming-2-degrees-or-1.5-climate-negotiators-wrestle-with-dangers-of-half-degree>

⁹ http://priceofoil.org/content/uploads/2016/09/OCI_the_skys_limit_2016_FINAL_2.pdf



Urgent Call on the AFL-CIO: Reverse Support for the Dakota Access Pipeline

Labor for Palestine, September 17, 2016 (12,000+ signers)

As trade unionists and social justice activists, we urgently call on the AFL-CIO to reverse its disgraceful support for the Dakota Access Pipeline.

DAPL continues more than 500 years of settler-colonialism, dispossession, and genocide against indigenous people in the Americas, who are defending the Earth's vital resources against the same corporate greed, state violence, and repression that violate workers' rights on a daily basis.

Like the Black and Brown Lives, Immigrant Rights, Palestinian, and other freedom struggles, the courageous Sioux resistance at Standing Rock has become a worldwide beacon for all who fight injustice.

In solidarity, numerous trade union bodies—including the Amalgamated Transit Union; California Faculty Association; Communications Workers of America; Industrial Workers of the World; IWW Environmental Unionism Caucus; National Nurses United; New York State Nurses Association; National Writers Union/UAW Local 1981; United Electrical Workers; SEIU 503 OPEU; Border Agricultural Workers; and the Labor Coalition for Community Action, which includes the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and Pride at Work—#StandWithStandingRock.

Workers' rights are inseparable from indigenous rights. We need decent union jobs that protect, rather than destroy, the Earth — there are no jobs on a dead planet.

An injury to one is an injury to all: #NoDAPL!

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Labor for Palestine Co-Conveners:

- Suzanne Adely, U.S.-MENA Global Labor Solidarity Network; Former Staff, Global Organizing Institute, UAW
- Michael Letwin, Former President, Association of Legal Aid Attorneys/UAW Local 2325
- Clarence Thomas, Co-Chair, Million Worker March; Executive Board, ILWU Local 10 (retired)
- Jaime Veve, Transport Workers Union Local 100, NYC (retired)

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