



Association *for the Study of Literature and Environment*

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A Statement of Support for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock

We the undersigned write as members of ASLE: The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment to express our solidarity with the sovereign Oceti Sakowin Oyate (the Great Sioux Nation), the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and tribal nations and allies who are Water Protectors. We affirm: Mni Wiconi--Water is Life. The Dakota Access Pipeline is a threat to the health of the people of Standing Rock and the Missouri River watershed. It threatens the well-being of humans, nonhumans, and ecosystems through its perpetuation of a fossil fuel economy. We thank the Water Protectors for safeguarding the earth and the future for all of us.

We call on the United States government at the local, state, and federal levels to respect the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples. This includes honoring treaties with Oceti Sakowin and the Standing Rock Nation, including the right to informed and un-coerced consent. We call for the protection of sacred sites and burial grounds. We affirm the right to free expression of dissent. We condemn the violence by the police against peaceful protestors, including the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, water cannons, pepper spray, dogs, and other forms of physical force. We ask the United States government to de-escalate this conflict by demilitarizing the police.

We are encouraged by the recent decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to deny Energy Transfer Partners a permit to drill under Lake Oahe pending an Environmental Impact Statement. This ban must become permanent. We urge the government and citizens of the United States to renounce the colonial policies of the past in order to seek a more just and sustainable future. As an organization committed to environmental justice, ASLE stands with the Standing Rock people in their quest for justice and cultural survival.

Sincerely,

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