

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint Senate Resolution

By Senator Cummings,

J.R.S.9. Joint resolution objecting to law enforcement officials' conduct at the Standing Rock protest and urging President-Elect Trump, on assuming office, to not propose a reversal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' denial of construction authorization for the Lake Oahe water crossing of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Whereas, Dakota Access L.L.C, a subsidiary of Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, is constructing the Dakota Access Pipeline extending from North Dakota to Illinois, and

Whereas, a segment of the pipeline has been proposed to be built under the Missouri River, at a location known as Lake Oahe, near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota, and

Whereas, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (the tribe) is concerned that the Lake Oahe segment may pollute the reservation's drinking water supply, and

Whereas, in July 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) issued the federally required approval for the Lake Oahe segment of the pipeline, as the segment is a water crossing, and

Whereas, at least 3,000 protesters joined an encampment near the proposed construction site, and in September 2016, tribal leaders accused construction crews of destroying burial sites on the tribe's private land, and

Whereas, tribal leaders then decided to confront the construction crews, and the protesters accused private security workers of employing dogs and pepper spray, and violent treatment of protesters occurred, including the use of rubber bullets against protesters, and

Whereas, on October 27, 2016, police arrested dozens of the segment's opponents for establishing an illegal camp and reports surfaced that police were monitoring the protesters' social media activities, and

Whereas, in early December 2016, the Corps announced that it was amending its Lake Oahe decision ordering an environmental study of alternative routes for the pipelines going underneath the Missouri River, and

Whereas, although the tribe celebrated this unanticipated victory, it remains concerned that on assuming office, President-Elect Trump might propose a reversal of the Corps' latest Lake Oahe decision, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly objects to law enforcement officials' conduct at the Standing Rock protest and urges President-Elect Trump, on assuming office, to not propose a reversal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' denial of construction authorization for the Lake Oahe water crossing of the Dakota Access Pipeline, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President-Elect Donald Trump, to Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General and Chief Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to the Vermont Congressional Delegation, and to the Standing Rock Tribe.