

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-17**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA,  
SUPPORTING THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO  
THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE**

**WHEREAS**, the City and Borough of Sitka represents 9,061 citizens and a land area of 4,811.5 square miles in the Tongass Forest on Southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago; and

**WHEREAS**, as a community whose recreational, commercial and subsistence fisheries, wildlife and natural resources are integral to our way of life and rely on environmental protection and preservation, we stand with like communities throughout the United States, Canada and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota Access Pipeline LLC has proposed to construct a 1,100 mile pipeline with the capacity of 570,000 barrels of crude oil per day to cross the Missouri River immediately above the mouth of the Cannonball River on the Standing Rock Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, as Sitkans rely on the North Pacific Ocean and the waterways of the Pacific Coast, the people and tribes of the Missouri River rely on the waters of the life giving Missouri River for their continued existence, and the Dakota Access Pipeline poses a serious risk to the very survival of Missouri river peoples and tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the horizontal direction drilling in the construction of the pipeline would destroy valuable cultural resources of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, recent oil spills upstream from the Standing Rock Reservation, including the release of 840,000 gallons of oil near Tioga, North Dakota in October 2013; 51,000 gallons of oil released into the Yellowstone River upstream from Glendive, Montana, resulting in the shutdown of the community water system for 6,000 residents in January of 2015; as well as the release of 100,000 gallons of tar sand crude in Michigan's Kalamazoo River in July 2010 demonstrate the dangers to downstream communities and fish and wildlife from oil and gas pipelines such as the Dakota Access Pipeline; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Sitka understands the how critical clean waterways are to the to the people, economies and social life of the communities who inhabit their shores; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Sitka stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux as a community working actively for the protection of subsistence ways of life through environmental protection and preservation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, offers our full support to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 13th day of September, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mim McConnell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Henshaw  
Acting Municipal Clerk