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Resolution Against the Dakota Access Pipeline

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Labor Council is committed to joining the larger movement for racial and climate justice and a just transition for workers into a new economy; and

WHEREAS, the \$3.78 Billion, 1,172-mile Dakota Access Pipeline would carry over half a million barrels of dirty crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota, through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois to connect to other pipelines bringing oil to the East Coast and the Gulf; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline is slated to pass through the tribal lands of Standing Rock Sioux near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, and underneath the Missouri River, the main source of water for approximately 17 million people; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline desecrates the ancestral burial grounds of the Standing Rock Sioux; and

WHEREAS, millions of workers, their families and communities live in the path of the proposed pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the transport of heavy crude is particularly volatile, leading to 18.4 million gallons of oil and chemicals spilled, leaked, or released into the air, land, and waterways between 2006 and 2014 in North Dakota alone, causing death, contamination of soil and water, and all kinds of disease; and

WHEREAS, scientists have warned that in order to avoid wide-scale, catastrophic climate disruption, the vast majority of remaining fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground; and

WHEREAS, Native water protectors and their supporters have been brutally attacked by private security forces with attack dogs and pepper spray; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans and other activists have the same right to defend their land and water and engage in nonviolent protest as workers who are protesting the actions of an unfair employer; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has repealed the ban on exporting oil, meaning that the oil transported by the pipeline is likely to be sold overseas and not contribute to US energy independence; and

WHEREAS, we know that a looming threat to workers' lives and livelihoods is catastrophic climate change; and



WHEREAS, many large corporations, especially fossil fuel companies, have been putting profits ahead of the common good of workers, the public, and the environment, and these corporations have been granted the unjust rights and powers of person-hood, and the doctrine of money as speech through Supreme Court decisions thereby diminishing democracy and the voice and power of the people; and

WHEREAS, national and international unions have already passed resolutions against construction of the pipeline, including National Nurses United, Amalgamated Transit Union, Communications Workers of America, and United Electrical Workers; and

WHEREAS, our sister Labor Council in Alameda County is already on record supporting the development of renewable energy sources and investment in sustainable energy, including local hire provisions and project labor agreements, and against fossil-fuel intensive projects which damage the environment and public health, such as the proposed Oakland coal terminal; and

WHEREAS, more long-term, good paying jobs would be created by investing in sustainable energy infrastructure projects using already existing technologies while at the same time reducing pollution that creates greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, we support the rights of our union brothers and sisters building the pipeline to work in safe environments at jobs that are consistent with respect for the environment and the rights and safety of frontline communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon the Federal Government to make permanent the moratorium on construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline by revoking permits for construction issued by the Army Corps of Engineers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Federal Government provide economic support, training and to transition to sustainable jobs for the union workers who would be employed by the construction of this pipeline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council calls on the labor movement to support a just transition to a renewable energy economy and investment in the construction of a nationwide sustainable energy infrastructure that will address the growing threat of climate change and its consequent droughts, floods, fire, crop failure, species extinction and other dire consequences of global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government immediately intervene to stop the brutal attacks and protect the first amendment rights of water protectors and other peaceful protestors; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Congressional Delegations of Northern California, President Barack Obama, the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Submitted by Dave Welsh, NALC 214 and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 9, 2017.