Dear President Obama,

As scientists from a variety of backgrounds we are committed and invested in the generation and exchange of knowledge for the common good. Along with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, we are concerned that recent environmental and cultural assessments conducted ahead of the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) are inadequate, unlawful, and that this pipeline would destroy culturally important areas and threaten local ecosystems.

To date, concerns have been raised with regard to the legal processes undertaken to approve the construction of pipeline segments in North Dakota. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has filed a lawsuit against the United States Army Corps of Engineers, claiming that environmental and cultural assessments taken to date ignore the important ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts this project would have on the Tribe and region. The Tribe are concerned that potential spills from the pipeline—which would pass under the Missouri River (at Lake Oahe) half a mile upstream of the their reservation boundary—would impact the drinking water of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and thousands of others downstream who rely on the river for drinking water and irrigation.

We know that fresh water is non-renewable, vital to all terrestrial life, and thus one of the most precious and important resources on the planet. The Missouri River provides irrigation and drinking water to communities downstream of Lake Oahe, and supports crucial habitat to diverse wildlife. Oil spills directly kill wildlife, destroy habitat, and can have long-lasting effects on ecosystems. In the last year, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks had to close sections of the Yellowstone River because 1,500 barrels of oil leaked into the river in 2015, prohibiting recreational activity and negatively impacting wildlife populations. Indeed, the damage that an oil spill could potentially cause cannot be underestimated, and it truly is a question of ‘when’, and not ‘if’.

Climate change is the greatest environmental issue of our time. Yet, the DAPL project is just one of many current haphazard approaches to continued natural resource extraction, which overlook the broader consequences of further oil development. Further, we as scientists are concerned about the potential local and regional impacts from the DAPL, which is symptomatic of the United States’ continued dependence on fossil fuels in the face of predicted broad-scale social and ecological impacts from global climate change. Indeed, construction of the DAPL is in direct conflict with the United States’ commitment to reducing the risk of climate change. We are concerned that further extractive practices, such as those supported by the DAPL, do not comply with commitments made under the United Nation’s Paris Agreement (2015) to cut fossil fuel emissions by 2030.

We support halting any construction of the DAPL until revised environmental and cultural assessments are carried out as requested by Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Case 1:16-cv-01534, and considering recent Paris Agreement commitments, call for the United States Federal Government to consider how this and any other such proposed national energy strategies tradeoff with public health, environmental justice, and biodiversity conservation. We also affirm Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s, and all indigenous peoples’ treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and the protection of their lands, waters, cultural and sacred sites.

With concern,

1. Stephanie Januchowski-Hartley, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Université Paul Sabatier, and Society for Conservation Biology Freshwater Working Group (President)
2. Anne Hilborn, PhD Candidate, Virginia Tech
3. Katherine Crocker, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
4. Asia Murphy, PhD Candidate, Pennsylvania State University
5. Geri Unger, PhD, Executive Director of Society for Conservation Biology
6. **Sukhmani Kaur Mantel**, PhD, Senior Researcher, Rhodes University (South Africa) and Society for Conservation Biology Freshwater Working Group (Vice-President)

7. **Helen Margaret Barber-James**, PhD, Head of Department of Freshwater Invertebrates, Rhodes University (South Africa) and Society for Conservation Biology Freshwater Working Group

8. **John Joseph Piccolo**, PhD, Karlstad University (Sweden) and Society for Conservation Biology Freshwater Working Group

9. **Zeb Hogan**, PhD, Research Biologist, University of Nevada, Reno, National Geographic Society Fellow, United Nations Convention on Migratory Species Councilor for Fish

10. **Jessa Madosky**, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Tampa and Society for Conservation Biology (SCB; Vice-President), SCB North America Section (President-Elect)

11. **Carlos Carroll**, PhD, Klamath Center for Conservation Research

12. **Dominick A DellaSala**, PhD, President & Chief Scientist Geos Institute

13. **Richard Kingsford**, PhD, Professor, Director of Centre for Ecosystem Science, University of New South Wales (Australia)

14. **ECM (Chris) Parsons**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science & Policy, George Mason University

15. **Karen V Root**, PhD, Bowling Green State University

16. **Auriel Fournier**, PhD Candidate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas

17. **Leslie E Decker**, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan

18. **Joseph P Crocker**, PE, PhD, SE

19. **Emily Nash**, MPH Candidate, University of Michigan

20. **Kaitlin Stack Whitney**, PhD, Visiting Research Scholar, Rochester Institute of Technology

21. **Jason D Schooley**, Fisheries Biologist

22. **Courtney A Schultz**, PhD, Colorado State University

23. **Katherine E O'Reilly**, PhD Candidate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame

24. **Oliver Keyes**, Rapid7

25. **Michelle Fearon**, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan

26. **Abigail Cahill**, PhD, Albion College

27. **Kirsty MacLeod**, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Pennsylvania State University

28. **Claire Hopkins**, Botanist, Brilliant Botany

29. **Ryan Gott**, PhD, Entomologist

30. **Angelo Capparella**, PhD, School of Biological Science, Illinois State University

31. **Tom Rooney**, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology, Wright State University

32. **Jessica Pratt**, PhD, Assistant Teaching Professor, University of California, Irvine


34. **Jennifer Natali**, PhD Candidate, University of California, Berkeley

35. **Stephen C. Trombulak**, PhD, Department of Biology, Middlebury College

36. **Jason A Koontz**, PhD, Department of Biology, Augustana College

37. **Fraser A Januchowski-Hartley**, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Université de Montpellier 2 (France)

38. **Kai M A Chan**, PhD, Professor, University of British Columbia (Canada)


40. **Kathleen Farley**, PhD Candidate, Federated Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University-Newark & NJIT

41. **Leslie Cornick**, PhD, Director, Marine Physiological Ecology Laboratory, Alaska Pacific University

42. **Ellen L Simms**, PhD, Professor of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley

43. **Andrew P Nelson**, PhD, Emeritus Director, Rice Creek Field Station, Department of Biology, SUNY Oswego

44. **Ambika Kamath**, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

45. **Anne Jefferson**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Geology, Kent State University
46. Patricia B Campbell, PhD, Campbell-Kibler Associates, Inc.
47. Alice L Pawley, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Engineering Education, Purdue University
48. Bradley J Cardinale, PhD, Professor, School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan
49. Elizabeth Tibbetts, PhD, Associate Professor, Ecology and Evolution, University of Michigan
50. Diarmuid O Foighil, PhD, Professor and Chair, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
51. Caleph B Wilson, PhD, Co-founder of the National Science & Technology News Service.
52. Thomas E Moore, PhD, Retired Professor of Biology, University of Michigan
53. John P Langmore, PhD, Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan
54. Jessica N De Smet, Master's Candidate, Department of Biology, University of Oklahoma
55. Lydia Beaudrot, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
56. Regina S Baucom, PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
57. Simion Kreimer, Graduate Student, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University
58. Robyn Jeanette Burnham, PhD, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
59. Aaron Iverson, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell University
60. Pascale R Leroueil, PhD, MBA, The William Davidson Institute, University of Michigan
61. Mary Jo Ondrechen, PhD, Professor of Chemistry & Chemical Biology, Northeastern University
62. Jennifer Kovacs, PhD, Department of Biology, Spelman College
63. Elizabeth Walker, MSc, University of Michigan
64. Mark D Hunter, PhD, University of Michigan
65. Adam Becker, PhD, Freelance Astrophysicist
66. Kathryn Clancy, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
67. Philip Myers, PhD, Emeritus Professor, University of Michigan
68. Kristel F Sanchez, Bachelors in Science, University of Michigan
69. John Vandermeer, Distinguished University Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Thurneau Professor, University of Michigan
70. Catherine M Rawlins, PhD Candidate, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University
71. Sabrina Morano, PhD, Research and Teaching Associate, University of Maine
72. Callie Chappell, Master's Candidate, University of Michigan
73. William J Davis, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Michigan
74. Senay Yitbarek, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
75. Melissa Pardi, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of New Hampshire
76. Hillary Streit, Bachelors in Science, University of Michigan
77. Jacqueline Popma, PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
78. Daniel L Rabosky, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
79. Emily Sessa, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Florida
80. Jacquelyn L Gill, PhD, School of Biology & Ecology and the Climate Change Institute, University of Maine
81. Shanadeen Begay, PhD, Visiting Scientist, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Northeastern University
82. Zachary Hajian-Forooshani, MS, PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
83. Tara M Webster, PhD Environmental Engineering
84. Zach J Farris, PhD, Assistant Research Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University
85. Brian S Fulton, PhD, Lecturer, Chemistry, Northeastern University
86. David McNitt, MS Candidate, Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
87. Nestor E Navarro Valdez, PhD Candidate, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University
88. Jason A Emmel, MS Candidate, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
89. Kuruthuu Ally Mwamende, PhD Candidate, Virginia Tech
90. Sydney Hope, PhD Candidate, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
91. Ravi Shanker Kanoje, MSc, Freelance Ecological Researcher and Consultant
92. Erika Marin-Spiotta, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison
93. Brandon Semel, PhD Student, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
94. Brian R Murphy, PhD, Professor of Fisheries Science, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech and Fellow of the American Fisheries Society
95. Madhusudan Katti, PhD, Associate Professor, Chancellor’s Faculty Excellence Program for Leadership in Public Science, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, North Carolina State University
96. Paul L Aingermeier, PhD, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
97. Christian C Cely, PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
98. Amanda Meier, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
99. Martha Groom, PhD, Professor, University of Washington Bothell
100. Josephine Kurzdziel, PhD, University of Michigan
101. Z Yan Wang, PhD Candidate, Department of Neurobiology, University of Chicago
102. Natalia Piland, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago
103. Claudia Wultsch, PhD, Conservation Research Fellow, Panthera & American Museum of Natural History
104. Anthony Caravaggi, PhD
105. Michael W Busch, PhD, Research Scientist, SETI Institute
106. David McDonald, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Biology & Microbiology, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
107. Alex Taylor, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
108. Susan Cheng, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University
109. Kendalynn A Morris, MSc, PhD Candidate, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry
110. Marina Ramirez-Alvarado, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Mayo Clinic
111. Carlos P Munoz-Ramirez, PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
112. Dennis Pearl PhD, Penn State University
113. Ricardo J Salvador, PhD, Director and Senior Scientist, Food & Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists
114. Ben O de Lumen, PhD, Professor Emeritus UC Berkeley
115. Mohammad F Kiani, PhD, FAHA, Professor Departments of Mechanical Engineering, Bioengineering, and Radiation Oncology, Temple University
116. Ariel Weaver, MS Candidate, Department of Geography and Geosciences, University of Louisville
117. Emily Howe, PhD, Aquatic Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy
118. Gerilyn (Lynn) S Soreghan, PhD, James Roy Maxey Professor, School of Geology and Geophysics, University of Oklahoma
119. **Andrea Cardini**, PhD, University of Modena & Reggio Emilia (Italy), The University of Western Australia (Australia)
120. **Anne Anderson**, PhD, Biology Department, Utah State University-Logan
121. **Robert Noyes**, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University
122. **Nathan Phillips**, PhD, Department of Earth & Environment, Boston University
123. **Jesse B Adams**, MS, Laboratory Scientist at Michigan Department of Agriculture
124. **Laura Twardochleb**, MS, PhD Candidate, Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University
125. **Rachel Hovel**, PhD, University of Washington
126. **Eric Wickstrom**, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Laboratory of Molecular Design, Thomas Jefferson University
127. **Mona Mehdy**, PhD, Biologist, University of Texas – Austin
128. **R Eugene Turner**, PhD, Louisiana State University
129. **Joseph Bryan**, PhD, Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute
130. **Sibyl Diver**, PhD, Stanford University
131. **Winifred L Ryan**, PhD, Maritime Research Consulting Company
132. **Ben Phalan**, PhD, Research Associate, College of Forestry, Oregon State University
133. **Joshua C Dickinson**, PhD, The Forest Management Trust
134. **Katrine M Milne**, DVM
135. **Amy Baco-Taylor**, PhD, Oceanographer
136. **Claudia Toro**, PhD, ORISE Postdoctoral Fellow, US EPA
137. **Samuel S Urmy**, MS, PhD Candidate, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University
138. **Gabriela Serrato Marks**, PhD Candidate, MIT-WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography
139. **Catherine Day**, ABD, MS, PhD candidate, Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison
140. **Elizabeth E Dahl**, PhD, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Loyola University Maryland
141. **Lindsay Lowe Worthington**, PhD, University of New Mexico
142. **Marion Andrews Holmes**, PhD Candidate, Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University
143. **Kim Landsbergen**, PhD, Associate Professor, Biology and Environmental Science, Antioch College
144. **Benjamin B Bartelle**, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
145. **Ronald J Parry**, PhD, Emeritus Professor, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Rice University
146. **Erika Amir-Lin**, PG, Hydrogeologist, AECOM
147. **Elisabeth Holland**, PhD, Professor & Director PaCE SD, University of the South Pacific (Fiji)
148. **Jean G Boal**, PhD, Professor, Dept of Biology, Millersville University
149. **Jillian Bellovary**, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physics, City University of New York
150. **Sarah Tuttle**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Astronomy, University of Washington, Seattle
151. **Lawrence Licklider**, PhD, President of Better Standing Co. Inc.
152. **Matthew Cover**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, California State University Stanislaus
153. **Heidi L Stauffer**, PhD Candidate, Earth & Planetary Sciences Department, University of California, Santa Cruz
154. **Peter A Mawhorter**, PhD, Pomona College
155. **Jeff Shi**, MS, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
156. **Amy W Ando**, PhD, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
157. Dawn R Bazely, PhD, Professor, Department of Biology, York University (Canada)
158. Kelsey JRP Byers, PhD, University of Zurich (Switzerland)
159. Catherine Scott, MS, PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto (Canada)
160. Alexander Bond, PhD, Principal Scientist, Ardenna Research (Canada)
161. Ken Vance-Borland, MSc, the Conservation Planning Institute
162. Justin Pomeranz, PhD Candidate, Freshwater Ecology Research Group, University of Canterbury (New Zealand)
163. Erin R Lehnert, BS, Wildlife Biologist, National Park Service
164. Blair Costelloe, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology (Germany)
165. Neil Hamrick, BS, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency- Division of Surface Water
166. Lily Mastrodimos, BA in Biology
167. Catherine Reidy Liermann, PhD, Affiliate Researcher Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
168. Neeltje Boogert, PhD, Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
169. Sean M Gibbons, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
170. Rebecca A Sherry, PhD, Instructor Environmental Studies, University of Oklahoma
171. Robert Zomer, PhD, Professor, Center for Mountain Ecosystem Studies, Kunming Institute of Botany - Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)
172. Kathleen R Johnson, PhD, Associate Professor and Director of American Indian Summer Institute in Earth System Science, University of California Irvine
173. Andrew MacDonald, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, Universite Paul Sabatier, Toulouse (France)
174. Michael Koontz, PhD Candidate, University of California Davis
175. Steven Bellan, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Public Health, University of Georgia
176. Allison Green Kidder, PhD, Reserve Manager, University of California Berkeley
177. Kaz Uyehara, PhD Candidate, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University
178. Ruthie Birger, PhD, Earth Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University
179. Julia Stepanuk, MSc Candidate, Stony Brook University
180. Karen E James, PhD, Independent Researcher, Bar Harbor, Maine
181. Julie Ripplinger, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California Riverside
182. Daisie Huang, PhD, University of British Columbia (Canada)
183. Jeff C Clements, PhD, Postdoctoral fellow, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown (Canada)
184. Sean Naman, PhD Candidate, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia (Canada)
185. Jason Silviria, BS, Paleontological Research & Teaching Collection, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
186. Kathleen Miles, MS, PhD Candidate, Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
187. Penelope Blackmer, BS
188. Kristina Chyn, BS, PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University
189. Wesley A Vermillion, MS Candidate, Department of Ecosystems Science and Management, Texas A & M University
190. Max Bangs, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences, Auburn University
191. Caitlin McDonough, PhD Candidate, Center for Reproductive Evolution, Syracuse
192. Erin Kane, PhD Candidate, Anthropology, The Ohio State University
193. Shishir Paudel, PhD, Oklahoma State University
194. Laura J Dane, PhD, Communications Associate at Burning Man Project
195. Amber L Pitt, PhD, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science Program & Department of Biology, Trinity College
196. Elita Baldridge, PhD
197. Christopher K Black, PhD Candidate, University of Illinois
198. Ewan McNay, PhD, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences & Behavioral Neuroscience, University at Albany
199. Jeffrey C Cole, MS, Independent Researcher
200. Allison K Barner, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California Berkeley
201. Martin Stoermer, PhD, Medicinal Chemist, The University of Queensland (Australia)
202. Michael John Bartlett, PhD Candidate, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury (New Zealand)
203. Tammy Steeves, PhD, Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury (New Zealand)
204. Nicole Sukdeo, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute, University of Northern British Columbia (Canada)
205. Edward R Kluender, MS, Research Associate II, Colorado State University
206. Christopher William Becke, BA, MBA, Williamsburg-James City County Schools
207. Stephanie Borrelle, PhD Candidate, Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand)
208. Clark DeHart, BS, Independent Filmmaker
209. Amanda Shores, MA, PhD Candidate, Colorado State University
210. Janette Wallis, PhD, Vice President for Conservation, International Primatological Society
211. Raphaël Royauté, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, North Dakota State University
212. Remington J Moll, PhD candidate, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University
213. PZ Myers, PhD, University of Minnesota Morris
214. Rebecca M Jarvis, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand)
215. Greg Cronin, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Colorado Denver
216. Brittany Woodward, MS Candidate, Aquaculture, Kentucky State University
217. Morriah Fickes, MS, Consultant for GEI Consultants
218. Carrie Cizauskas, DVM, PhD
219. Angela Darnell Baker, PhD Candidate, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
220. Matt R Haworth, MS, Research Associate, Colorado State University
221. Mauna Dasari, PhD Candidate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame
222. Hannah Miller, BS, Ecology and Wildlife Conservation Researcher
223. Jennifer L Hoffman, PhD, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy, University of Denver
224. Arjun Dheer, MRes, University of Southampton (United Kingdom)
225. Julia E Earl, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Oklahoma State University
226. Nicolette Roach, MS, PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University
227. Aerin Jacob, PhD, Liber Ero Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Victoria (Canada)
228. Desmond Ramirez, PhD Candidate, University of California, Santa Barbara
229. Cynthia Malone, MA, Manager, Pacific Programs, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History