

COMMENTS OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPE LINE IN ILLINOIS ICC DOCKET NUMBER 19-0673

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On behalf of the over 850 members of our Organization, we wish to register our opposition to the proposed expansion of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) in and through Illinois, for the following reasons:

1. **Water is Life.** The existing pipeline has already threatened water several times. Illinois, an agricultural state, does not need this threat to the well-being of its citizens, the environment, and its economic future.
2. Whatever has already happened is therefore possible. The existing DAPL and other pipelines have already experienced several substantial leaks, casting extreme and very realistic doubts about the safety of this project, the ability of the owners to manage it properly, and the government agencies to regulate it.
3. The existing DAPL is already being built in violation of the treaty rights of the Standing Rock Band of the Lakota Sioux Nation:

"The position of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is that the Dakota Access Pipeline violates Article II of the Fort Laramie Treaty, which guarantees the "undisturbed use and occupation" of reservation lands surrounding the proposed location of the pipeline. In 2015 the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, operating as a sovereign nation, passed a resolution regarding the pipeline stating that "the Dakota Access Pipeline poses a serious risk to the very survival of our Tribe and ... would destroy valuable cultural resources."

Any approval of expansion of this pipeline is by extension aiding and abetting this illegal activity.

4. Peaceful and legal protest against DAPL by the Standing Rock Sioux and the many national and international supporters and allies who came to Standing Rock to oppose the DAPL were met by deliberately violent and at times illegal use of force on the part of the State of North Dakota, local police and private security firms. Approval of this DAPL docket would be by extension a statement that the Illinois Commerce Commission condones the illegal use of violent force to override the legal rights of peaceful protesters in favor of the illegal economic gain of the pipeline owners through violent force – continuing the century old pattern of violent seizure of Indigenous lands for economic gain.
5. Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker and numerous members of the Illinois Legislature have stated that it is the intention of the State to move to 100% renewable energy and eliminate fossil fuel use by 2050. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has announced a climate emergency due to fossil fuel abuse, and stated that at best humanity has a decade remaining to radically alter energy use and eliminate fossil fuels to prevent the initiation of potentially irreversible climate disruption, some of which Illinois has already experienced.

Approving the DAPL runs diametrically opposed to both intended State policy, not to mention human intelligence and self-survival instinct.

Thank you for consideration of these views. Please deny any and all future DAPL permits.