Letter of Endorsement

RE: Mother Earth Accord – Keystone XL Pipeline and Tar Sands Development

The INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (IEN) is a Native organization founded in 1990 working on environmental protection, environmental health, conservation of natural resources, protection of scared areas and promoting sustainable development within indigenous territories. IEN works with Native Nations, Native community-based organizations and Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

IEN fully endorses the “Mother Earth Accord” of September 23rd, 2011 stating opposition to the proposed Trans Canada Keystone XL Pipeline development in the U.S. IEN further endorses the Accord related to its stated solidarity with First Nation governments in Canada opposing the expansion of the tar sands development in northern Alberta, Canada.

IEN, in its support of the Mother Earth Accord emphasizes the call of the divine blessing of the Creator to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Native Nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States.

We call upon President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to do what is right. The pipeline is not in the national interest of America. Any approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, will only compound an already dismal situation for our indigenous brothers and sisters of the Canadian tar sands.

We therefore call on the US and Canada governments to heed this call as expressed in the “Mother Earth Accord” and to uphold their obligations under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Nation-to-Nation Treaties they concluded with Indigenous Nations.

In Beauty Way and with Recognition of All My Relations,

Tom B.K. Goldtooth, Executive Director
September 28, 2011

Re: Mother Earth Accord

To: Governments of All Nations in the United States and Canada

The Intertribal Council On Utility Policy (COUP) representing 15 Tribes in the Northern Plains supports the attached Mother Earth Accord opposing the XL Pipeline construction and development of the Tar Sands Oil sites in Canada.

Signed:

Patrick Spears, President
10-03-2011

To: Chief Erasmas, President Obama and Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton,

We support the Mother Earth Accord to stop the Tar Sands and the XL Pipeline.

We are students of Ya Ne Dah Ah Tribal School in Chickaloon Village, Alaska. We are also fighting a coal mine in our area.

President Obama, please get rid of these things that are making the earth sick. It's not about the money; it's mainly about the land.

Tsin'aen (Thank-you),
May Creator Guide Our Footsteps,

Raevyn
Sho'ne'o
Megan
Jacob
Iue
Jason

Jennie Maxim
Elder, Language/ Culture Mentor

Markle Pete
Elder, Language/ Culture Mentor

Jesse Roger
Language Apprentice, ANA Language

Daniel Harrison
Language Teacher, ANA Language

Aliana Shaginoff
Project Manager, ANA Language

Kari Shaginoff
Education Director

Gary Harrison
Traditional Chief

Katherine Wade
In memory of Our Clan Grandmother

P. O. BOX 1105 Chickaloon, Alaska 99674
Email: evadmin@chickaloon.org

Phone (907) 745-0749 Fax (907) 745-7154
Home Page: http://www.chickaloon.org
October 5, 2011

Dear Chief Erasmus,

The Green Party of Canada agrees with and endorses the Mother Earth Accord.

The Green Party of Canada stands in solidarity with those opposing the expansion of Alberta’s oil sands by building the XL Keystone pipeline. This project poses great risks to water supply, the well-being of numerous communities, and climate change. We need to build a responsible, renewable, and secure energy sector that keeps in mind the well-being of communities and the environment.

The Green Party of Canada urges decision-makers to step back, rethink and oppose this project so that our efforts can be put towards sustainable energy methods conducive to future generations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.
Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
October 7, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We are writing express our support for the Mother Earth Accord, and to urge you to reject TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline.

If passed, the Tar Sands Pipeline would:

- **Increase the United States and Canada’s already unacceptably high greenhouse gas emissions.** Tar sands production emits three times the greenhouse gas emissions of conventional oil, and NASA climate scientist James Hansen has said that if the tar sands are fully developed, it will be “essentially game over” for the climate. On top of our disproportionate historical responsibility for the causes of climate change, the planet can simply not afford for the U.S. to give the green light to such a damaging project.

- **Threaten the land and water sources across a broad range of the United States, affecting family farmers and the broader population that relies on them for food.** Dena Hoff, a farmer in Montana and leader within the National Family Farm Coalition, explains, “Some claim that TransCanada will use the safest technology available in Keystone XL’s construction. However, there have been 12 oil spills in their Keystone 1 pipeline during the year it has flowed through eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. One analysis of the Keystone XL estimates a Missouri River spill could release over 134,000 barrels of oil and a Yellowstone River spill could release over 188,000 barrels. Many of us living near the affected waterways are very dubious of TransCanada’s efforts to build a safe pipeline. Like the Exxon Valdez spill and the BP explosion in the Gulf, these preventable accidents have a way of harming water, land, and life far beyond anyone’s imagination.”

- **Promote further damage of indigenous lands,** both where the pipeline runs in the United States, as well as where it originates in Canada.

You have an alternate choice - you have the power to stop the tar sands pipeline. This may be one of the most impactful decisions you make for both the United States and the planet as a whole. Will you make a decision to approve the pipeline, or will you stand with us and the signers of the Mother Earth Accord to say no to this path of destruction and yes to the possibility of a positive future?

We await your response.

Sincerely,

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Family Farm Defenders

Farmworker Association of Florida

Global Justice Ecology Project

Global Alliance Incinerator Alternatives

Population and Development Program

SmartMeme
Dear Secretary Clinton,

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• **Threaten the land and water sources across a broad range of the United States, affecting family farmers and the broader population that relies on them for food.** Dena Hoff, a farmer in Montana and leader within the National Family Farm Coalition, explains, “Some claim that TransCanada will use the safest technology available in Keystone XL’s construction. However, there have been 12 oil spills in their Keystone I pipeline during the year it has flowed through eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. One analysis of the Keystone XL estimates a Missouri River spill could release over 134,000 barrels of oil and a Yellowstone River spill could release over 188,000 barrels. Many of us living near the affected waterways are very dubious of TransCanada’s efforts to build a safe pipeline. Like the Exxon Valdez spill and the BP explosion in the Gulf, these preventable accidents have a way of harming water, land, and life far beyond anyone’s imagination.”

• **Promote further damage of indigenous lands, both where the pipeline runs in the United States, as well as where it originates in Canada.**

You have an alternate choice - you have the power to stop the tar sands pipeline. This may be one of the most impactful decisions you make for both the United States and the planet as a whole. Will you make a decision to approve the pipeline, or will you stand with us and the signers of the Mother Earth Accord to say no to this path of destruction and yes to the possibility of a positive future?

We await your response.

Sincerely,

Michael Leon Guerrero
National Coordinator
October 6, 2011

Ms Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We are writing on behalf of family farmers, fishers, and ranchers in the United States to express our support for the Mother Earth Accord, and to urge you to reject TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline. This is an issue that many of our member organizations have been actively working on; most specifically in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

We are very concerned that if passed, the Tar Sands Pipeline would:

- **Increase the United States and Canada’s already unacceptably high greenhouse gas emissions.** Tar sands production emits three times the greenhouse gas emissions of conventional oil, and NASA climate scientist James Hansen has said that if the tar sands are fully developed, it will be “essentially game over” for the climate. The planet can simply not afford for the U.S. to give the green light to such a damaging project.

- **Threaten the land and water sources across a broad range of the United States, affecting family farmers and food production.** Despite claims that TransCanada will use the safest technology available in Keystone XL’s construction, there have been 12 oil spills in their Keystone pipeline during the year it has flowed through eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

- **Promote further damage of indigenous lands,** both where the pipeline runs in the United States, as well as where it originates in Canada.

We urge you to use your power to stop the tar sands pipeline. This may be one of the most important decisions you make for the United States and the planet as a whole. Will you approve the pipeline, or will you stand with us and the signers of the Mother Earth Accord to say no to this path of destruction and yes to the possibility of a positive future?

On behalf of the family farmers, fishers, and ranchers we represent and rural residents who will be directly impacted, we strongly urge you to consider our views.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ben Burkett, Mississippi farmer
President of the National Family Farm Coalition
October 5, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton,

On behalf of the fishing and coastal communities with whom we work spanning the eastern sea board, we are writing express our support for the Mother Earth Accord, and to urge you to reject TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline.

Every day, we work to reduce our impact on the marine environment through fishing and non-fishing activities. We work with fishermen who are working tirelessly to adopt sustainable fishing practices to ensure the ocean’s health for many generations to come. Yes all their efforts can be for naught if we don’t curb our dependence on fossil fuels and address the impacts of climate change as the marine environment and fish populations are highly susceptible to climactic changes. Their migration, breeding, feeding and nesting habits are affected by ocean temperature and water levels, two of the most dramatic impacts of fossil fuel induced climate change.

It is for these reasons that we urge you to reject the TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline. The Pipeline may see far from the ocean, but its impact is far reaching as climate change and greenhouse gas emissions know no boundaries.

We know that if passed, the Tar Sands Pipeline would increase the United States and Canada’s already unacceptably high greenhouse gas emissions, threaten the land and water sources across a broad range of the United States, affecting family farmers and the broader population that relies on them for food, and promote further damage of indigenous lands, both where the pipeline runs in the United States, as well as where it originates in Canada. We also know the effects of the Keystone XL Pipeline will add to the Earth and its ocean’s burdens, a burden our commercial fisheries, the food system they enter into, and the communities whose economic infrastructure is dependent on health fisheries.

There is another choice and it’s within your: to stop the tar sands pipeline. Please stand with us stand with us and the signers of the Mother Earth Accord to say no to this path of destruction and yes to the possibility of a positive future. Future generations of humans, and marine animals, are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Niaz Dorry
Coordinating Director

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance · PO Box 7086 · Gloucester, MA 01930 · Tel & fax 978-281-6934 · www.namaniel.org
Printed on recycled, chlorine-free paper honoring aboriginal fish.
October 7, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton,

On behalf of the farmers and farmworkers, indigenous peoples, rural women and rural youth who form La Via Campesina in the North American Region we are writing to express our support for the Mother Earth Accord, and to urge you to reject TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline, if passed, the Tar Sands Pipeline would:

• Increase the United States and Canada’s already unacceptably high greenhouse gas emissions. Tar sands production emits three times the greenhouse gas emissions of conventional oil, and NASA climate scientist James Hansen has said that if the tar sands are fully developed, it will be “essentially game over” for the climate. On top of our disproportionate historical responsibility for the causes of climate change, the planet can simply not afford for the U.S. to give the green light to such a damaging project.

• Threaten the land and water sources across a broad range of the United States, affecting family farmers and the broader population that relies on them for food. As a Via Campesina member the National Family Farm Coalition, farmers across the country, including in Montana, explains: “Some claim that TransCanada will use the safest technology available in Keystone XL’s construction. However, there have been 12 oil spills in their Keystone 1 pipeline during the year it has flowed through eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. One analysis of the Keystone XL estimates a Missouri River spill could release over 134,000 barrels of oil and a Yellowstone River spill could release over 188,000 barrels. Many of us living near the affected waterways are very dubious of TransCanada's efforts to build a safe pipeline. Like the Exxon Valdez spill and the BP explosion in the Gulf, these preventable accidents have a way of harming water, land, and life far beyond anyone's imagination.”

• Promote further damage of indigenous lands, both where the pipeline runs in the United States, as well as where it originates in Canada.

You have an alternate choice - you have the power to stop the tar sands pipeline. This may be one of the most impactful decisions you make for both the United States and the planet as a whole. Will you
October 6, 2011

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- **Threaten land and water sources across a broad range of the United States, affecting family farmers and the broader population that relies on them for food.** Dena Hoff, a farmer in Montana and leader within the National Family Farm Coalition, explains, "There have been 12 oil spills in their Keystone 1 pipeline during the year it has flowed through eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.
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- **Further damage indigenous lands,** both where the pipeline runs in the United States, as well as where it originates in Canada.

You have an alternate choice - you have the power to stop the tar sands pipeline. This may be one of the most impactful decisions you make for both the United States and the planet as a whole. Will you make a decision to approve the pipeline, or will you stand with us and the signers of the Mother Earth Accord to say no to this path of destruction and yes to the possibility of a positive future?

We await your response.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Anim Steel
Executive Director, Live Real
Dear Secretary Clinton,

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We await your response.

Sincerely,

Nikhil Aziz
Executive Director
October 3, 2011

Marty Cobenais
Campaign Organizer
Indigenous Environmental Network
No Keystone XL Pipeline
via email to: lenpipeline@igc.org

re: Endorsement of the Mother Earth Accord of 9/16/2011

Dear Mr. Cobenais:

Owe Aku International Justice Project and our mother organization, Owe Aku, are writing to endorse the Mother Earth Accord of September 16, 2011 which stands as an Indigenous declaration in opposition to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline will run directly through our territory on the high plains of North America as defined in the Fort Laramie treaties of 1851 and 1868 between the Lakota Nation and the United States.

Owe Aku and Owe Aku International Justice Project (“IJP”) were formed by Lakota people who receive direction from traditional leaders. IJP expands the existing work of Owe Aku (which means “Bring Back the Way” in the Lakota language). Owe Aku strives to preserve Lakota lifeways and the indivisible connection with the environment. IJP’s work has reinforced these efforts utilizing Lakota treaties and international human rights as an additional level of advocacy to preserve the Lakota land-based culture for future generations.

International human rights work provides us with the opportunity to join with other Indigenous nations and communities as well as allies around the world to ensure the preservation and revitalization of unique Indigenous world views. Our cultures have preserved wisdom that will sustain and protect Mother Earth, sacred water and all of the relatives upon which we rely for existence.

For this reason we give our unqualified endorsement to the Mother Earth Accord.

In solidarity,

[Signature]
Debra White Plume
Director
Owe Aku (Bring Back the Way)

Kent Lebsack
Coordinator
Owe Aku International Justice Project
September 26th, 2011

Dene National Chief and Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief, NWT, Bill Erasmus, via email to:
dtseleie@denenation.com and berasmus@afn.ca
United States of America and Canadian federal, state and provisional governments
Indigenous Peoples, Nations and organizations
National and International public opinion

Respectful Greetings,


The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and formally endorsed by both the United States and Canada in 2010, provides an internationally-recognized framework for upholding and implementing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in these countries and around the world. The Declaration recognizes, affirms and calls upon all States to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, traditional lands and resources, sacred sites and cultural practices, subsistence, health, free prior and informed consent, and the rights affirmed the Treaties concluded with Indigenous Nations, among others.

Article 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples specifically affirms the responsibility of States to uphold Indigenous Peoples’ right to free prior and informed consent regarding development projects as follows: “States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.”

Hundreds of Indigenous Peoples, Treaty Nations, Tribal governments, National and International Indigenous Peoples’ Representative Bodies and Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, along with a wide range of organizations, leaders, Nobel Laureates and impacted community members from the US and Canada have already expressed their strong opposition to the Tar Sands Development in Alberta Canada and the Keystone XL Pipeline project in the United States.
Re: Mother Earth Accord

Takahí Guaitiao (Greetings relatives):

The United Confederation of Taíno People agrees with and endorses the Mother Earth Accord.

The Confederation represents Caribbean First Nations and we stand in solidarity with our relatives to the North.

Taíno People on the island of Borikén (Puerto Rico) are experiencing a similar struggle against the proposed “Via Verde (Green Way)” Gas Pipe Line.

It is our hope that our next communication with be ones that announce the end of both Tar Sands and Via Verde.

If you require additional information, please contact our office at oirrc@uctp.org.

In the spirit of our ancestors,

Múkaró Agueibana (Roberto Borrero)

Múkaró Agueibana (Roberto Borrero),
President, UCTP-OIRRC