September 19, 2011

To whom it may concern:

RE: Mother Earth Accord

The Dene Nation agrees with and endorses the Mother Earth Accord.

Sincerely,

Bill Erasmus
Dene National Chief
AFN Regional Chief, NWT
41st DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-004

SUBJECT: DENE NATION OPPOSITION TO KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

MOVED BY: Chief Roy Fabian, Katlodeeche First Nation

SECONDED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DECISION: Unanimous

WHEREAS, the Dene Nation has convened the 41st Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 - 15, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project will carry oil from Alberta’s tar sands 1,000 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico, and will facilitate an expansion of tar sands developments; and

WHEREAS, tar sands developments are directly impacting the lands and rights of Dene First Nations, and threaten the water of downstream Dene communities and the environment of Denendeh; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a threat to Dene communities and the Dene way of life, and expansion of the tar sands will contribute to further climate change and global warming; and

WHEREAS, oil transported to the USA through the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is not needed in North America, and will go to market to be sold to the highest bidder; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans south of the border oppose the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, and the Dene Nation stands in solidarity with these peoples in this opposition; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Dene Nation will continue to participate in organized opposition of the Keystone XL pipeline, in cooperation with other First Nations governments.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14th day of July 2011 in Fort Providence, Denendeh

Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

"Implementing Treaty & Aboriginal Rights Since 1970"
August 26, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton:

RE: 41ST DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MOTION ON OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The Dene Nation recently held the 41st Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence. At this Assembly, Dene leaders and delegates unanimously passed a motion, attached, stating the Dene Nation’s opposition to the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline.

This pipeline will carry half a million barrels of synthetic oil each day from Alberta’s tar sands to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico, facilitating further expansion of tar sands developments.

The Dene Nation represents 31 First Nation communities in Denendeh (the Northwest Territories and Northern Alberta). Most of these communities are isolated with few opportunities in the wage economy, and excessively high prices for food and other products. Many Dene families still rely on hunting, trapping, and fishing to provide food and supplement income. But these harvesting rights, protected by Treaties, are not just substitutes for jobs, they are integral parts of Dene culture and spirituality.

Tar sands projects in Alberta are a huge concern for Dene. Our communities are downstream from the tar sands, and span the entire Mackenzie River Basin, from Lake Athabasca to the Mackenzie Delta near the Arctic Ocean. Contamination from tar sands developments near the Athabasca River is already impacting Dene communities, and this pollution will make its way north through all regions of Denendeh.

Unusually low water levels have been experienced on most major lakes and rivers in Denendeh, and our people attribute this to the massive amounts of water taken from the Athabasca River to refine tar sands into synthetic crude oil. For each barrel of tar sands crude produced, approximately four barrels of fresh water are needed. Thus, an expansion of tar sands production of 1 million barrels per day, facilitated by the Keystone XL Pipeline, means an additional 4 million barrels of fresh water taken from the environment each day, and 1.46 billion additional barrels each year.

Exploitation of the tar sands accounts for 6.5% of Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions, and is the country’s fastest growing source of greenhouse gas pollution. Many Dene communities are above the Arctic circle, and are already impacted with drastic climatic changes and temperature

"Implementing Treaty & Aboriginal Rights Since 1970"
increases that are four times higher than the global average.

Canada’s greenhouse gas reduction target is not science-based and is not adequate to prevent runaway climate change, and the Canadian federal government does not have a comprehensive plan to meet its greenhouse gas reduction target. Both the Canadian federal government and Alberta government have failed to plan properly to ensure that tar sands exploitation proceeds with minimal environmental impacts. There are no appropriate environmental monitoring regimes in place to gauge the full scale of the impact of these tar sands projects (see the attached media releases for more information).

Dene food security, livelihoods, and cultures are being threatened by the impacts of tar sands exploitation and climate change. Construction of the Keystone XL and other pipelines will expand the destructive tar sands mega-project, and lead towards the tipping point of runaway climate change. The price we will pay is not worth the return. This pipeline is not being built to protect our energy security as there is no shortage of oil in North America, and specifically in the United States which has a surplus of fossil fuel reserves. Tar sands oil will be sold to the highest bidder for the profit of some of the richest corporations on the planet.

In the absence of leadership on climate change and environmental stewardship in Canada, we are looking to the United States to lead by example with comprehensive action on climate change, respect for Indigenous Peoples rights, initiatives towards sustainable development of resources with minimal environmental impact, and robust monitoring regimes to ensure ecosystems are not destroyed by industries like fossil fuel extraction. We are looking to the United States government to do the right thing and not support the Keystone XL Pipeline.

We are not alone in our opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. Other First Nations in Canada have taken a stand against this project, as have many Native Americans in the United States. We stand in solidarity with these Nations, and others who opposes this pipeline, and have resolved to continue our participation in organized opposition to the Keystone XL in cooperation with our allies.

We rely on your support in our opposition to the Keystone XL Pipeline, and look forward to working with you and your government on this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bill Erasmus Dene National Chief
AFN Regional Chief, NWT
c.c. Chiefs of Denendeh

Premier Floyd Roland
Government of the Northwest Territories

Premier Ed Stelmach
Government of Alberta

Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada

Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Secretary Dr. Stephen Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of the General Counsel
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Secretary Ken Salazar
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Speaker John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515
Attachments - 3
RESOLUTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL
OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
(An Unincorporated Tribe)

RESOLUTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
ADOPTING MOTHER EARTH ACCORD.

WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe organized in accordance with section
16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 on December 14, 1935, by
adopting a federally approved Constitution and By-laws, and the Tribal
Council is the governing body of the Tribe, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has considered the matter and desires to
adopt the attached Mother Earth Accord, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the
Oglala Sioux Tribe hereby adopts the attached Mother Earth Accord.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I, as the undersigned Secretary of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, hereby
certify that this Resolution was enacted by a vote of: 12 For; 0 Against; 0
Abstain; and 3 Not Voting; during a REGULAR SESSION held on the 27th day of
September 2011.

Rhonda Two Eagle
Secretary
Oglala Sioux Tribe

THOMAS POOR BEAR
Vice-President
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Therefore, we are united on this Mother Earth Accord, which is effective immediately, that:

We support and encourage a moratorium on tar sands development;

We insist on full consultation under the principles of “free, prior and informed consent,” from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples both in the United States and Canada;

We urge regional authorities to halt the Exxon-Imperial and ConocoPhillips Heavy Haul shipments;

We urge the United States and Canada to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce their reliance on oil, including tar sands, and invest in the research and development of cleaner, safer forms of sustainable energy, including next-generation biofuels and electric vehicles powered by solar and wind energy.

We strongly believe that the Keystone XL pipeline is not in the national interest of the United States or Canada;

We urge President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton to reject the Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

September 30, 2011

Cher. [Name]

Sec. [Name]