



**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE**

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Rodney M. Bordeaux, President  
Scott Herman, Vice President  
Linda L. Marshall, Secretary  
Louis Wayne Boyd, Treasurer  
Edward Clairmont, Sergeant-at-Arms

September 10, 2018

**GREETINGS MY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**

Cante wasteya nape ciyuzapelo (I take your hand in friendship). As the newly elected President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe - also known as the Sicangu Lakota Oyate - I write to you today to reaffirm our opposition to the TransCanada Pipeline (known as the Keystone XL). The current pipeline path would go directly through our traditional land that was guaranteed to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the Great Sioux Nation in the Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 and 1868. Should the pipeline be allowed to proceed along its current path, it would most certainly damage or destroy countless sacred and burial sites of the Sicangu and other tribes historically from the area. The pipeline will also endanger the Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies water to millions of citizens, both Natives and non-Natives.

The actions of the Trump administration towards Indian Country and especially towards the plains tribes who sit in the pathway of the pipeline have been overwhelmingly disappointing. It was not surprising that on March 23, 2017, the U.S. Department of State granted TransCanada's request for a presidential permit to construct and operate the Keystone XL Pipeline at the wishes of President Trump. This decision reversed two previous administrative decisions and was done without any public comment or environmental analysis. The permitting process was completed only 56 days after TransCanada submitted its application for the third time. The State Department provided no explanation in the 2017 decision for its contradictory factual finding; instead, it simply disregarded its previous factual findings and replaced them with a new one.

The reversal by President Trump and his administration came as no surprise. His administrative and personal bias towards the extractive industry at the expense of the environment and health and wellbeing of both Native and non-Native peoples is well documented. President Trump's approval of the of Keystone XL pipeline demonstrates his total disregard of the law and a complete lack of compassion for those who will be affected by his decision.

To the Oceti Sakowin and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, staying true to the teachings of our ancestors has been the key to surviving 500 plus years of genocide. We will not turn our back on those teachings. I stand with previous Presidents of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe when I say the Sicangu people, indeed all of the seven tribes that make up the Oceti Sakowin (the Council First of the Lakota People), have an inherent obligation to protect the health and wellbeing of our members as well as the health and welfare of Unci Maka (mother earth). The land, the water, the air, and the Lakota people are one in the same. They are and always have been relatives to one another. Our position on this issue has not changed. We opposed the construction of this pipeline in 2014 when TransCanada first announced its intentions to construct the pipeline, and we oppose it now in 2018.

The United States has trust obligations to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and with the help our attorneys, the Native American Rights Fund, we will make sure the United States honors our treaties, respects our tribal sovereignty, and fulfill and honor those trust obligations to our tribe, our tribal citizens, and the greater Oceti Sakowin. The free, unconquered and sovereign Rosebud Sioux Tribe, will take any and all necessary steps, up to and including litigation, to stop the Keystone XL pipeline from irreparably hurting our people, our land and water, and our cultural and historic resources.

Hecetu yelo. (That's how it is).

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Bordeaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Rodney Bordeaux, President  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe