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November 2, 2016

**RESPONSE FROM CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE CHAIRMAN HAROLD FRAZIER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S
 DECLARATION ON REROUTING THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE**

In an interview last night, President Obama declared that the Army Corps of Engineers is currently analyzing a reroute of the Dakota Access Pipeline that would avoid the sacred sites of Native Americans. I am glad that President Obama is finally taking action to address what I feel is the most important environmental issue currently facing our country.

One week ago today, I sat down face-to-face with the President and carried to him the message of the Great Sioux Nation that we oppose this pipeline that jeopardizes our sacred lands and waters and violates the United States' solemn treaty obligations to our Indian nations. President Obama's statement is a clear signal that his administration has heard the voices of the Native and non-Native people across the world who joined together to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline.

While I am encouraged by his statement that the administration is actively working toward a resolution that will accommodate our tribal interests, I want to stress that the only meaningful resolution to the members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is one that assures the protection of our Missouri River water supply and guarantees no additional destruction of our sacred sites.

I have yet to receive any communication from the Army Corps of Engineers or any federal agency about a proposed reroute or other resolution to this issue. In the meantime, the State of North Dakota continues to violate my people's human and constitutional rights as they stand as protectors of our water at the *Oceti Sakowin* camp. Resolution of this issue is urgent.

The blue represents the thunderclouds above the world where live the thunder birds who control the four winds. The rainbow is for the Cheyenne River Sioux people who are keepers of the Most Sacred Calf Pipe, a gift from the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. The eagle feathers at the edges of the rim of the world represent the spotted eagle who is the protector of all Lakota. The two pipes fused together are for unity. One pipe is for the Lakota, the other for all the other Indian Nations. The yellow hoops represent the Sacred Hoop, which shall not be broken. The Sacred Calf Pipe Bundle in red represents Wakan Tanka – The Great Mystery. All the colors of the Lakota are visible. The red, yellow, black and white represent the four major races. The blue is for heaven and the green for Mother Earth.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe opposes any pipeline that threatens our *Unci Maka*, our Grandmother Earth. A movement is growing across the world, encouraged by the bravery and dedication of the water protectors, to place the needs of the many above the profit of a few. I remain grateful to the water protectors who have stood up so powerfully. I strongly believe that this movement has been a wake-up call to the world that we, the protectors of the waters and the earth, will not be silenced.

I look forward to being contacted by the United States to discuss the proposed resolution that President Obama has promised us. Tribes must be consulted and be part of the process. I stand behind the protectors of our resources, and I encourage all Americans and our supporters around the world to join us.

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