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President Trump Lies About Working with Tribes on DAPL

Eagle Butte, SD — February 23, 2017.

On February 23, 2017, President Trump’s Press Secretary Sean Spicer twice lied about the President’s promise to negotiate a solution between Tribes and Energy Transfer Partners regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). Press Secretary Spicer claimed “our team has been in contact with all the parties involved” and also claimed that “we are constantly in touch with them.” In fact, no one from the Administration has contacted the Tribe regarding DAPL.

Chairman Harold Frazier commented, “Nothing could be further from the truth. These are lies on top of lies. My team contacted the new Administration at all levels only to have meetings and conference calls cancelled at the last minute.”

Chairman Frazier continued, “On January 27, 2017, I sent a letter to the Acting Secretary of the Army formally requesting government-to-government tribal consultation as required under Department of Defense Instruction and Policy on any decisions under Trump’s January 24, 2017 memorandum. I received no response, no contact, no consultation.”

Just weeks earlier President Trump also claimed that he had not heard one word in response to his January 24, 2017 memorandum pressuring the Army Corps of Engineers to approve DAPL. Frazier responded, “If he was in touch with us, in constant contact, he would know that we oppose this attack on our homelands, our drinking water and our treaty rights and resources. Which is it? Are they in contact or not?”

There is a solution to the threat DAPL proposes to the drinking waters of the Tribe and millions more. The Administration should require Energy Transfer Partners to reroute DAPL to avoid crossing the Missouri River and major water bodies—a route already recognized by Federal agencies. President Trump and Press Secretary Spicer should make good on their word and contact the Tribe to negotiate a solution.

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