

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE,

Plaintiff,

and

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE,

Intervenor-Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,

Defendant.

and

DAKOTA ACCESS, LLP,

Intervenor-Defendant.

Case No. 1:16-cv-1534-JEB

**DECLARATION OF MARCELLA GILBERT
IN SUPPORT OF INTERVENOR-PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

I, Marcella Gilbert, whose Lakota name is Tasina Ga Hoka Win, or "Shawl that Floats with the Wind," declare as follows:

1. I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and I am of the Oceti Sakowin, specifically the Oohenumpa band of the Lakota-Sinte Numpa(Two Tails) and Itesakiya (Reddens His Face) tiospayepi located on the Cheyenne River reservation. I am also of the Feather Necklace tiospaye of the Ihanktowan band of the Nakota located on the Yankton reservation, and a relative to Sistowan Dakota located on the Sisseton reservation. My children are from the Oglala and

Sicangu bands of the Lakota located on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations, and we all practice our spiritual instructions for life.

2. I have been indoctrinated into Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota ceremonial and cultural practices and knowledge since I was a small child, and I continue to participate in these practices as a regular part of my life.

3. Today I am among a large number of tribal members that adhere to our traditional Lakota religion and practice our sacred rights.

4. I have participated in the following ceremonies, which are a vital part of my Lakota belief and religion: inipi, isnati (for my daughter), wiwanyang wacipi, wiping of the tears, and humbleciya (crying for a vision).

5. Disturbing and threatening the sacred water used in these ceremonies also disturbs and threatens our spiritual path in life. Clean, undisturbed water is needed when purifying our bodies in inipi, when bathing our daughters during isnati, and when nourishing our bodies before and after each ceremony.

6. Clean, undisturbed water is necessary in every ceremony.

7. It is my belief that the construction and operation of the pipeline will make the water from our Mni Sose (or "Missouri River" in the English language) unsuitable for use in our ceremonies because it will change the energy and the spirit of the sacred water.

8. As a United States citizens, I believe that I have a constitutional right to practice my religion.

of 1978 gave me protection to practice my religion in the United States, just as the right to practice any other religion is protected under the US Constitution.

10. I believe that construction and operation of the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline is a direct threat to the practice of my religion. It is representative of the religious persecution that the white forefathers of this country have tried to impose on Native Americans, and from which we were forced to hide our religious practices until 1978.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: February 1, 2017


Marcella Gilbert