



December 13, 2023

Mr. Michael L. Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G. Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

RE: USACE Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Dakota Access Pipeline

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor,

The State of North Dakota submits the enclosed comments regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement, conveying our support for reinstating the easement that will allow the Dakota Access Pipeline to continue to operate safely 93 feet below the bottom of Lake Oahe. We urge the Corps to follow the law, facts, science and common sense and put an end to this prolonged, unnecessary and highly politicized process.

DAPL is an essential part of North Dakota's and the nation's energy infrastructure. It plays a pivotal role in ensuring energy security and affordability for the entire nation while providing enormous positive economic impact that touches every North Dakota citizen.

The enclosed document represents the collective outcome of extensive efforts spanning over three months, involving the collaboration of more than 10 executive branch agencies and five independently elected statewide officials. These submitted comments reaffirm that the safest, most efficient and most environmentally friendly means of transporting all liquids is by pipeline – especially when that pipeline is already in place and has been operating safely for over six years. Of the more than 18,000 pipeline water crossings in the United States, it is absurd that the Corps continues to fixate on one of the most modern crossings in the country.

Therefore, the State of North Dakota urges the Corps to stick to the facts, do the right thing for national security, and select the continued operation of DAPL at its current location as the only proper and reasonable alternative.'

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor

cc:

The Honorable John H. Hoeven, U.S. Senator for North Dakota
The Honorable Kevin J. Cramer, U.S. Senator for North Dakota
The Honorable Kelly M. Armstrong, U.S. Representative for North Dakota
The Honorable Doug Goehring, ND Agriculture Commissioner
The Honorable Drew Wrigley, ND Attorney General
The Honorable Julie Fedorchak, ND Public Service Commissioner
The Honorable Randy Christmann, ND Public Service Commissioner
The Honorable Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, ND Public Service Commissioner
The Honorable Kirsten Baesler, ND Superintendent of Public Instruction
The Honorable Dennis E. Johnson, Speaker of the ND State House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael Lefor, ND House Majority Leader
The Honorable Zachary Ista, ND House Minority Leader
The Honorable Donald G. Schaible, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable David J. Hogue, ND Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Kathy L. Hogan, ND Senate Minority Leader
General Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Colonel Robert J. Newbauer, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
Brent J. Cossette, DAPL EIS Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District