

QEW Statement of Support for Actions at Standing Rock, Sept 2016

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a North American-wide network of Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people, who see the ecological and social crises of our times as matters of deep spiritual concern.

We are called to support the voices and actions of the more than 150 Tribal Nations at Sacred Stones Camp in North Dakota, and of others who have come forward to join them in peaceful protest, in protection of the water of the Missouri from the danger of contamination from a fossil fuel pipeline.

We see in the events at Sacred Stones Camp a clear example of how ecological and social concerns are blended in real life, when people take a stand to protect the Earth and themselves.

We are aware that the indigenous peoples of this continent have suffered greatly from the incursions of those bent on extracting resources, particularly fossil fuels, without regard for the life-ways and well-being of those peoples. We see in this practice a directly connected disregard for the healthy functioning of the planetary systems on which we all depend.

We decry the use of violence against the protesters by private security forces, and we urge local civil authorities to protect the people from such violence, as they are sworn to do.

We endorse the August 30, 2016 minute of the Indian Affairs Committee of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, appended below, and stand in solidarity with and gratitude to the Tribes and their supporters as they protest against the construction of the pipeline.

We encourage others to take non-violent action to oppose incursions on the lives and well-being of indigenous peoples and of our planet Earth, wherever they occur.

QEW, Sept. 8, 2016