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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

November 28, 2016

Greetings Ms. Van Gerpen,

My name is Robert Marcroft, I am writing to you from the town of Westbrook, Maine. As a witness to the horrific events surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline, I urge you to do everything in your power as Executive Director of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to revoke your approval for the Dakota Access Pipeline, revoke any and all permits issued to Energy Transfer Partners, and stand with your brave Native American brothers and sisters to protect their land, their clean water supply, and their human rights to both.

The Dakota Access Pipeline was found to pose too large of a risk of water supply contamination to the town of Bismark, and consequently, was re-routed to its current route that directly penetrates the intersection of the Cannonball and Missouri Rivers. The water, and the lands surrounding it belong to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; this land, and the surrounding water sources do not belong to Energy Transfer Partners. To see this, we need to look beyond the world of property rights and permits, and look deeper into the world of human rights. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe, like all American citizens, has a right to clean water and untainted burial grounds. It is not the shareholders and employees of Energy Transfer Partners that will be using the water from the Missouri and the Cannonball Rivers for daily survival. It is not the Energy Transfer Partners that possess loved ones who are buried in these grounds. Using this logic, the land and the water belongs to the Sioux, and only the Sioux.

As I am sure you are already aware, Native Americans have been stripped of their lands, their culture, and their human dignity since the early American explorers and subsequent European settlers of the United States. In these times, Native Americans quickly became victims of violent, brutish force fueled by greed and profit. And now, over 200 years later, Native Americans are once again victims of the same violent forces for the sake of greed and profit. Doing what you can to ensure that the The United States Army Corps of Engineers order a screeching halt to the Dakota Access Pipeline and its accompanying risks to human life. When I speak of such risks, I am not merely referring to the eventual oil spills; but also the Morton County Police Department's violent attacks on Dakota Access Pipeline protesters and their allies. Their use of tear gas, dogs, mace, spraying of freezing cold water in freezing temperatures, concussion grenades, sound cannons, live rounds, and rubber bullets is placing the lives of hundreds of Native Americans and their allies at risk of serious injury and death. In the name of basic human dignity, the Dakota Access Pipeline must be stopped immediately.

When your grandchildren read about this incident in their history books, which side do you want to be able to tell them you were on? Do the right thing, and stand strong in your opposition to the pipeline.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Marcroft

Robert Marcraft

Westbrook, ME 04092

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