



**COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES**

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe  
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe  
Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

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**Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT)**

**Resolution: 09-22-2023-Resolution #03 2023 (Washington DC)**

**Resolution Rejecting the United States Army Corps of Engineers' September 2023 Dakota Access Pipeline Lake Oahe Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Calling on the Biden-Harris Administration to shut down the Dakota Access Pipeline**

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Councilman Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting tribes that govern large trust land bases; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT Tribes consist of tribes that have a land base of 100,000 acres of land or more, of which, of the 574 federally recognized tribes, more than 50 tribes meet this criterion; and these tribes control 95 percent of tribal lands and consist of one half of the Native population; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1,168-mile pipeline system that transports crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois and crosses under the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and Lake Oahe; and

**WHEREAS**, DAPL's system runs through Treaty lands of the Oceti Sakowin (the Great Sioux Nation); and

**WHEREAS**, constituent tribes of the Oceti Sakowin Sioux Nations oppose DAPL and their opposition is firmly rooted in the their several treaties; respect for Mother Earth; religious, spiritual, and cultural values; lessons from the tribes' ancestors; and way of life, along with environmental justice concerns, and



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**WHEREAS**, DAPL's operation will cause significant and irreversible adverse impacts to the environment as well as cultural and sacred sites and drinking water sources of the constituent tribes of the Oceti Sakowin; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT Member tribes, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Member Tribes) along with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe were victorious in court in that the United States District Court and Circuit Court concluded that the United States Army Corps of Engineers violated the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) by failing to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to granting an easement for the DAPL to cross Lake Oahe and vacated the easement for the DAPL to cross Lake Oahe; and

**WHEREAS**, the DAPL does not have an easement to cross Lake Oahe, but it is still in operation; and

**WHEREAS**, the operator of DAPL has a poor safety record, has been cited for violations pipeline safety rules by PHMSA, and has been convicted of criminal violations of environmental laws in Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2023, the United States Army Corps of Engineers issued a draft environmental impact statement analyzing the impacts of issuing an easement for the DAPL to cross under Lake Oahe; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers' draft environmental impact statement contains serious and fundamental flaws including using a biased contractor, relying on redacted studies, failing to account for the input of tribes, and relying on flawed risk assessment, analysis and studies; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, COLT expresses its strong opposition to DAPL.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, COLT rejects the United States Army Corps of Engineers' September 2023 Dakota Access Pipeline Lake Oahe Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, COLT calls on the Biden-Harris Administration to shut down the DAPL system because DAPL is a trespasser and is currently operating without an easement to cross Lake Oahe.



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**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held on ancestral lands of the Anacostans (also documented as Nacotchtank), and the neighboring Piscataway and Pamunkey peoples, Washington, DC on September 22, 2023, at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this September 22, 2023

Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax  
COLT Chairman

*Oliver Semans Sr*

OJ Semans  
COLT Executive Director  
(Carrying out duties delegated by Secretary Nathan Small upon his retirement)