



December 30, 2016

Penny Miller, Clerk of the Supreme Court
supclerkofcourt@ndcourts.gov
600 E. Bouleyard Ave., Bismark, ND 58505-0530

RE: Petition to Permit Temporary Provision of Legal Services By Qualified Attorneys From Outside North Dakota - Supreme Court No. 20160436

Dear Ms. Miller:

I strongly urge the North Dakota Supreme Court to grant the petition ("Petition") to temporarily allow out of state lawyers to represent the No Dakota Access Pipeline ("No DAPL") arrestees and to permit out of state attorneys to be admitted without the regular requirements.

As President of the Navajo Nation (the "Nation"), I write to you on behalf of the great many members of my Nation who traveled to the treaty lands of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (the "Tribe") to show their support of the Tribe in blocking the extension of the DAPL, which would imperil a critical water supply source for the Tribe.

In order to ensure that the First Amendment rights of Navajo tribal members, and all participants in the protection of the Tribe's water supply, are upheld it is imperative that the Petition be granted.

I thus urge this Court to waive its standard procedure regarding the admission of out of state lawyers due to the urgent need for additional attorneys to assist in the representation of the over 500 protestors, many of whom still do not have an attorney. We all want to ensure that the arrestees' constitutional right to an attorney is not violated. I suggest that the most efficient way to ensure adherence to the constitutional rights of the arrestees is to allow out of state attorneys to represent the arrestees.

Thank you very much for considering this Petition.

Sincerely,

THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye".

Russell Begaye, *President*