

- WHEREAS,** the 23 Tribal Nations for whom the Pipestone quarries hold spiritual and cultural significance have not been consulted on the Magellan Pipeline reroute; and
- WHEREAS,** Traditional Ecological Knowledge (“TEK”) was not incorporated in the assessment and analysis of the reroute project; and
- WHEREAS,** the Comparative Environmental Analysis prepared for the reroute project failed to consider impacts on Native Americans and Native communities in its purported environmental justice analysis; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the Comparative Environmental Analysis for the reroute project, “[d]irect impacts from pipeline construction could include the destruction of archaeological resources through grading, ditching, trenching, and other methods required to install the pipe,” and “[i]mpacts will be permanent[;]” and
- WHEREAS,** of the four routes considered, only two routes have been partially surveyed for cultural resources and the other two have not been surveyed for this purpose at all; and
- WHEREAS,** none of the four routes has been surveyed by Tribal cultural and spiritual resource experts; and
- WHEREAS,** all four routes pose a considerable risk to water, which we hold sacred and which the people, plants, and animals rely upon, in the event of a leak or spill during construction or operation of the Magellan Pipeline; and
- WHEREAS,** the water at Pipestone National Monument and the surrounding areas is already contaminated, and rerouting the Magellan Pipeline risks further contamination of that water; and
- WHEREAS,** the Comparative Environmental Analysis of the reroute project failed to adequately and transparently address the risk of spills from the Magellan Pipeline; and
- WHEREAS,** a spill from the Magellan Pipeline could contaminate the Pipestone we hold sacred, and while there are no studies or data on petroleum contamination of this particular resource, studies on similar materials show high rates of contamination with little chance of mitigation; and
- WHEREAS,** all four of the routes considered by the Minnesota PUC contain critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the tricolored bat (a proposed endangered species), the northern long-eared bat (an endangered species), the monarch butterfly (a candidate for federally protected status), and the Topeka shiner (an endangered species), as well as likely the Dakota skipper (a threatened species) and the western prairie fringed orchid (a threatened species); and