



**UNITED TRIBES OF NORTH DAKOTA  
RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION NO. 24-11-01**

**TITLE: Resolution in Opposition to Magellan Pipeline Reroute.**

**WHEREAS,** United Tribes of North Dakota (“United Tribes”) is the inter-tribal association of the five federally recognized Tribes co-located with North Dakota, each of which has a government-to-government relationship with the United States government established by Treaty, including the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the Spirit Lake Tribe, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Three Affiliated Tribes, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, with a Board of Directors composed of the Chairman and once council member from each member Tribe; and

**WHEREAS,** United Tribes, founded in 1968, exists to further the common goals of the Indian Tribes and Nations co-located within North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS,** The People of United Tribes have traveled since time immemorial to the Pipestone quarries to harvest sacred Pipestone, also known as catlinite, for use in making traditional ceremonial pipes necessary for our spiritual practices, and continue to do so to this day; and

**WHEREAS,** The United States has acknowledged the importance and sacredness of Pipestone, establishing in 1937 the Pipestone National Monument to protect the sacred Pipestone quarries; and

**WHEREAS,** The U.S. National Park Service has specifically acknowledged the sacredness of the Pipestone quarries and the ties of Tribal Nations to this land, stating that, “[f]or over 3,000 years, Indigenous people have quarried the red stone at this site to make pipes used in prayer and ceremony - a tradition that continues to this day and makes this site sacred to many people,” and that “[t]oday, Pipestone National Monument is officially affiliated with 23 tribal nations and Indigenous people from across the country keep ancient quarrying traditions alive to this day”; and

**WHEREAS,** No fewer than 23 Tribal Nations hold the Pipestone quarries and surrounding regions sacred; and

**WHEREAS,** Any contamination by pollutants of this sacred and priceless resource would destroy our ability to use the Pipestone for ceremony, inflicting irreparable damage upon our spiritual practices and our very spirituality; and

- WHEREAS,** Due to its proximity to the Pipestone quarries, the region surrounding the quarries where our People have traveled since time immemorial contains cultural sites and cultural resources of significance to United Tribes, and likely burials of ancestors of our Tribal citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** Any new ground disturbance in this region is likely to disturb or destroy our cultural sites, cultural resources, and burials; and
- WHEREAS,** Magellan Pipeline, L.P., owns a pipeline that was originally routed through federal lands in immediate proximity to the Pipestone quarries and the Pipestone National Monument pursuant to a 0.74-mile-long right-of-way that has now expired; and
- WHEREAS,** The Magellan Pipeline is an 8-inch-diameter pipeline designed to transport 1,100 barrels per hour of toxic refined petroleum products including gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel; and
- WHEREAS,** The 0.74-mile stretch of pipeline through federal lands has now been decommissioned; and
- WHEREAS,** Magellan Pipeline, L.P., now seeks to construct a new segment of pipeline around the Pipestone quarries using a new route to resume operation of the Magellan Pipeline; and
- WHEREAS,** Magellan Pipeline, L.P., applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Minnesota PUC”) in 2023 for a permit to re-route the Magellan pipeline; and
- WHEREAS,** Over the course of Minnesota PUC proceedings, three alternate routes were proposed for the Magellan Pipeline reroute project; and
- WHEREAS,** All four routes considered by the Minnesota PUC pose unacceptable risks to the Pipestone and other natural and cultural resources at and surrounding the Pipestone quarries; and
- WHEREAS,** No National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and analysis has been undertaken with respect to any of the four routes; and
- 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 route has 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 (catlinite) 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
- WHEREAS,** On or about September 12, 2024, the Minnesota PUC voted to approve a route permit for the Magellan Pipeline, approving the route known as “RA-01;” and
- WHEREAS,** Route RA-01, like all routes considered by the Minnesota PUC, poses unconscionable risks to the Pipestone and other natural and cultural resources at and surrounding the Pipestone quarries; and
- WHEREAS,** In addition to the species listed above, the western harvest mouse (a species of special concern) has critical habitat in the Project area for Route RA-01; and

**WHEREAS,** Route RA-01 crosses surface waters six times in close proximity to the Pipestone quarries; and

**WHEREAS,** Route RA-01 has been determined to have 41 separate wetland areas totaling 9.8 acres; and

**WHEREAS,** No cultural resource surveys have been conducted for Route RA-01; and

**WHEREAS,** The Phase IA archaeological and cultural resources literature review to identify and assess known and potential archaeological sites for Route RA-01 had not been completed at the time the Comparative Environmental Analysis was prepared and thus was not available for consideration by the Minnesota PUC when the Minnesota PUC issued a permit for Route RA-01; and

**WHEREAS,** During the Minnesota PUC proceedings, the Minnesota PUC received thousands of comments from the public opposing any reroute of the Magellan Pipeline due to the harmful effects it would have on Indigenous Peoples and their spiritual and cultural practices; and

**WHEREAS,** In granting a permit to Magellan Pipeline, L.P., the Minnesota PUC placed greater value on corporate profits than on the welfare of human beings; and

**WHEREAS,** In the interest of protecting Tribal spiritual and cultural rights and resources, the Minnesota PUC must reverse its decision to approve a permit for Route RA-01; and

**WHEREAS,** In the interest of protecting Tribal spiritual and cultural rights and resources, the Minnesota PUC must not grant a route permit to Magellan Pipeline, L.P., for any of the proposed routes, all of which threaten these vital Tribal interests.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That United Tribes of North Dakota opposes any reroute of the Magellan Pipeline using any of the four routes considered by the Minnesota PUC.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That United Tribes of North Dakota calls upon the Minnesota PUC to reverse its decision to grant a permit for Route RA-01 to Magellan Pipeline, L.P.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That United Tribes of North Dakota calls upon the Minnesota PUC to refrain from issuing a permit for any of the four routes previously considered for the Magellan Pipeline.

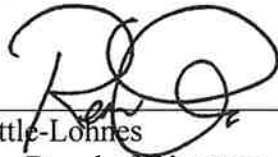
**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a meeting of the Board of Directors of United Tribes at which a quorum was present, held on the   2nd   day of November, 2024, with a vote of   6   in favor,   0   opposed,   0   abstaining, and   4   not present.



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Jamie Azure  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
United Tribes of North Dakota

ATTEST:



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ReNa Little-Lohmes  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
United Tribes of North Dakota