

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 17-27

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian Tribe (P.L. 101-484) whose business affairs are conducted by the Ponca Tribal Council as defined in the Constitution approved July 22, 1994 by the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the Constitution of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Ponca Tribal Council exercises legislative powers to enact and promulgate resolutions and ordinances subject to all express restrictions upon such powers contained in the constitution; and

WHEREAS: The United States has obligated itself both through Treaties entered into with the sovereign Tribes and Nations and through its own federal statutes, the Snyder Act of 1921 as amended, the Indian Self Determination Act of 1976 as amended, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 1976 as amended; and

WHEREAS: In treaties, the United States pledged to protect Indian Tribes, guaranteed the right of Tribal self-government, and has undertaken a trust responsibility to promote the viability of Indian reservations and lands as permanent homelands for tribes; and

WHEREAS: A major oil transmission pipeline is planned to extend from northern Alberta, Canada, from areas that have sand mixed with tar and oil, called "tar sands", to refineries in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The route of the pipeline, called Keystone XL because it is the second oil transmission pipeline to be constructed by the same company that built the first Keystone Pipeline, crosses through Indian country in northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, near and potentially over many culturally significant areas for Tribal Nations within those provinces and states; and

WHEREAS: It would threaten major water aquifers, rivers and water ways, public drinking water sources, agricultural lands, animal life, cultural sites, and other resources vital to the peoples of the region in which the pipeline is proposed to be constructed; and

WHEREAS: Based on the relatively poor environmental record of the first Keystone Pipeline, which includes numerous spills, and other factors, it is probable that further environmental disasters will occur in Indian country if the new pipeline is allowed to be constructed; and

WHEREAS: The First Nations of Canada and the Tribal Nations within the U.S. have a long history of working to ensure protection of their environment, and the Keystone XL Pipeline poses grave dangers if it is constructed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska stands in solidarity with the First Nations of Canada and with Tribal Nations in the United States in opposing the Keystone XL pipeline and the negative impacts on cultural sites and the environment in those portions of Indian country over and through which it is proposed to be constructed, and disagrees with the Finding of No Significant Impact issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska approves the Mother Earth Accord among the First Nations of Canada and the Tribal Nations within the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribe seeks to protect its interests in its recognized sovereignty in its congressionally designated Service Areas where the proposed routes of the pipeline will cross. The Tribe also desires to protect its historic, cultural, sacred and archaeological sites and resources in both its federally recognized territory as well as its traditional and aboriginal territory; and

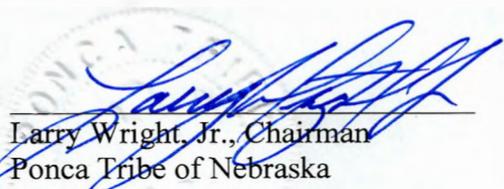
FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States is urged to reduce its reliance on the world's dirtiest and most environmentally destructive form of oil – the “tar sands” – that threatens Indian country in both Canada and the United States and the way of life of thousands of citizens of the First Nations in Canada and American Indians in the U.S., and requests the U.S. government to take aggressive measures to work towards sustainable energy solutions that include clean alternative energy and improving energy efficiency; and

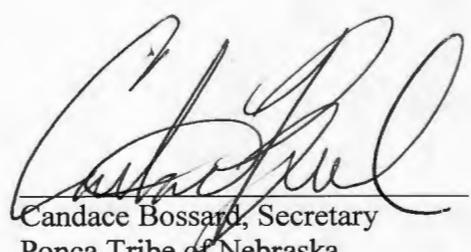
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska unless and until it withdrawn by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY AND AFFIRM that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly authorized and passed by the Ponca Tribal Council on the 25 day of March 2017, at a duly called meeting held in Lincoln, Nebraska by a vote of 8 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent. Chairperson _____ voting not voting. A Quorum of 9 was present.

ATTEST


Larry Wright, Jr., Chairman
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska


Candace Bossard, Secretary
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska