

April 30, 2017

Congressman Mike Turner
120 West 3rd St, Ste. 305
Dayton, OH 45402

Dear Congressman Turner:

We are writing from St. Paul United Methodist Church, a congregation in your old neighborhood in the historic Huffman District, to advocate on behalf of the Native Americans remaining in our country, women and men who have been stripped of their land, their possessions, their dignity, and often their lives, throughout the history of our nation.

All through last summer, fall, and into winter, we watched the water protectors of Standing Rock resist the efforts of Energy Transfer Partners to build a pipeline across their sacred spaces and above the source of their drinking water at Lake Oahe. The Native Americans and their supporters were prayerful and peaceful; the militaristic government response was concerning.

The United Methodist Church supported the water protectors. Bishop Bruce R. Ough, resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area, delivered a message of hope to those present at the camp.

"It is with intentions of unity, peace and hope that I bring you a message of support from the United Methodist Church," said Ough. "I lift each of you up in prayer and will continue to do so daily. My hope is that you will not let the spirit of this gathering die. The United Methodists hope to work in a continued relationship to fulfill God's commandment to be stewards of creation, and maintain loving relationships with all of God's people."

Even though oil is now flowing beneath Lake Oahe, there are lawsuits pending against the Army Corps of Engineers and Dakota Access LLC on multiple environmental, cultural, and treaty violations.

Congressman Turner, please use your position in the House of Representatives to support any and all legislation that provides aid to Native Americans. Please resist budget cuts that will deprive Native Americans of the assistance they need. Do not allow the government to break any more treaties, take any more land, or steal any more natural resources from them.

Rev. Alan Gies
Dr. Derek Petrey
Mary Sue Zimmerman
Kathleen Hamilton
Blm Alas
Clude Shields
Joan Johnson
David Myers Sr.
Er E f
Krust Rybes
Emmanuel Bellin

Mary Tylet
Sincerely, Rebecca Hodgson
Rev. Nancy Draves
Earl D House Jr.
Robertly Haddy
Sharon Humphrey
Jessica Baugher
Rita M. Kohler
Kath Johnson
Korner
Ryles
Chad Morris
Daniel D. Walker
Daniel B. Vondra
John Johnson
John Johnson
Susan Whitehouse
Donald J. Faber
Elizabeth Granoli