



# LIUNA!

October 13, 2016

TERRY O'SULLIVAN  
*General President*

ARMAND E. SABITONI  
*General Secretary-Treasurer*

*Vice Presidents:*

TERRENCE M. HEALY  
RAYMOND M. POCINO  
JOSEPH S. MANCINELLI

ROCCO DAVIS  
*Special Assistant to the  
General President*

VINCENT R. MASINO

DENNIS L. MARTIRE  
ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

RALPH E. COLE

JOHN F. PENN

OSCAR DE LA TORRE

SERGIO RASCON

ROBERT F. ABBOTT

SAMUEL STATEN, JR.

PAUL V. HOGROGIAN

THEODORE T. GREEN  
*General Counsel*

HEADQUARTERS:  
905 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
20006-1765  
202-737-8320  
Fax: 202-737-2754  
[www.liuna.org](http://www.liuna.org)

The Honorable Edward Markey  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I write to express our anger and disappointment with your recent opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. The joint letter you signed in support of halting construction is nothing but a product of political expedience. You are willfully sacrificing the livelihoods of more than 1,100 LIUNA members and more than 4,000 Building Trades members working on the project on the basis of misinformation and outright lies. It is shameful and reckless that you have chosen to completely disregard the facts around this situation.

There is no question that the Dakota Access Pipeline will do much to improve our country's infrastructure and energy independence. It will improve access to energy, provide a \$5 billion infusion for communities stretching from North Dakota to Illinois, and create thousands of jobs for proud LIUNA members and fellow tradesmen and tradeswomen.

The Pipeline has already been more than sixty percent constructed by an all-union workforce, but only in the last month has the project received national attention. After scrutinizing the permitting process, the U.S. District Court ruled against stopping construction and ruled that an injunction was not warranted. Just this week the U.S. Court of Appeals also ruled against an injunction. To our deep disappointment, the Obama Administration has stepped in and once again requested that the company halt construction to appease outside groups mounting large scale campaigns of misinformation. This has put the livelihoods of union workers at serious risk. Opponents of the Pipeline's construction have ignored evidence and reason, and have silenced the voices of the hard working men and women.

Disregard for the facts does us all a disservice. The Dakota Access Pipeline underwent an exhaustive two year review by the United States Army Corps of Engineers as well as the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. It finally began construction in March 2016. Supporters and critics had ample opportunity to express their positions. Solicitations for input from various groups were made, including to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

What has been conveniently ignored is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held thirty-eight meetings with fifty-five tribes during the review process. They met with the

*Feel the Power*

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe individually nearly a dozen times before the Pipeline route was finalized and the project permitted. The Dakota Access Pipeline was rerouted 140 times in North Dakota alone to avoid culturally sensitive areas. The entire route was surveyed by professional archaeologists and ethnographic specialists. Multiple archaeological studies conducted with state historic preservation offices found no sacred items. This was all well-established before construction began. And, as to the threat to the Missouri River, Dakota Access was designed with state-of-the-art safety measures and redundancies, including compliance with all safety and environmental regulations. Nor is it the first pipeline to cross the Missouri River. Eight other pipelines have already been built and are already in service under the same body of water; transporting thousands of crude product every day.

You, together with the other Senators who signed on to this letter are undermining the regulatory process and requesting reviews that have already taken place or that do not even make sense. Despite this, opponents of the Dakota Access Pipeline continue to make misleading arguments and use manipulative tactics. Extremist opponents have selfishly stood in the way of construction under the guise of tribal concerns, all in an effort to impose an agenda that opposes practical forms of energy.

Hundreds of thug-like protesters have obstructed the project and threatened construction workers and law enforcement. They have gone beyond peaceful demonstration and have trespassed on an active construction site, risking injury for themselves and for workers on-site. Our members have been threatened, harassed, and intimidated for doing their jobs and providing for their families. Their work is vilified without regard for the facts, and their jobs are now under threat. The letter recently sent by you and other Members of Congress only furthers lies propagated by opponents and some in the media. This cannot be allowed to continue.

We urge you to stand up for our members. The blind and haughty support for halting construction on a project that has already been exhaustively reviewed sets a dire precedent. You cannot surrender to agenda-driven manipulation and lies. The livelihoods of working families are being jeopardized. Laborers across the country are taking note of who stands with them and who doesn't.

With regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TERRY O'SULLIVAN  
General President

rj  
opeiu2liuna