



## USW Local 8751 - District 4

**Boston School Bus Drivers' Union**  
25 Colgate Rd. • Roslindale, MA 02131  
Telephone (617) 524-7073 Fax (617) 524-1691  
[www.BostonSchoolBusUnion.org](http://www.BostonSchoolBusUnion.org)

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September 22, 2016

Whereas the Standing Rock Sioux are in a life-and-death struggle to block construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, a struggle of the most vital import to environmental justice and the very survival of the planet;

Whereas the pipeline, which would run from North Dakota to Illinois and come within half a mile of that sovereign nation's water supply, endangers water resources for millions, desecrates First Nations burial lands, and ignores reservation treaty rights;

Whereas this is a struggle against the capitalist energy companies like Energy Transfer Partners, Enbridge, Sunoco, Veolia and Marathon, which have caused numerous toxic spills in our waterways and threaten the planet's destruction by the continued reckless burning of fossil fuels;

Whereas this courageous struggle has captured the world's attention; the ongoing encampment has ballooned into a tent city of thousands with hundreds of Indigenous communities from around the country and the world sending delegations;

Whereas a number of unions have come to the defense of Standing Rock with solidarity statements affirming the unity of demands of workers and oppressed people—the Amalgamated Transit Union, the California Faculty Association, the Communication Workers, the National Nurses United, the National Writers Union UAW Local 1981, the United Electrical workers (UE), American Postal Workers Union and locals from across the U.S. including the San Francisco region of the Inland boatmen's Union/ILWU and the homecare and public-service workers of SEIU 503 OPEIU in Portland, Oregon;

Whereas unfortunately and regrettably at the height of this battle, the AFL-CIO, issued a statement attacking Standing Rock defenders and defending DAPL using the company line that it provides “family-supporting jobs” and “makes the U.S. more competitive.” It further, outrageously demonizes the Standing Rock resisters by claiming they are “attackers” who are holding workers' jobs “hostage”;

Whereas the oil bosses and giant energy corporations have utilized the union-busting Pinkerton agency G4S and its attack dogs, against the Indigenous peoples and the environmental movement. These vicious attacks require the full 100% Solidarity in action of the Labor movement in the spirit of union principles that “An injury to One is an Injury to All”;

Whereas workers all over the world are in the fight of our lives to keep predatory, profit-hungry giant energy frackers and drillers from killing us, our loved ones, our jobs and work, our communities, and the very earth and water;

**Unity! ¡Unidad!**



**Inité! Unidade!**

Whereas certainly there are enough unmet human needs and deteriorating infrastructures to provide work for millions for a long, long time, such as replacing the water pipelines in Flynt, Michigan and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that Veolia Energy has been complicit in destroying and poisoning with lead and other toxins whole populations in those cities;

Whereas thousands of people have signed a petition, initiated by Labor for Palestine, calling on the AFL-CIO to change its position and show solidarity with the Standing Rock defenders;

Whereas Local 8751 has a long history of acting in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples' struggle for rights, justice and self-determination, having been a union presence at the National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, MA for decades;

Be it therefore resolved that the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, USW Local 8751, pledges our wholehearted solidarity to the resistance at Standing Rock;

Be it further resolved that we call on President Obama to permanently halt construction on the DAPL immediately;

Be it further resolved that Local 8751 will forward this resolution to President Trumka, urging that AFL-CIO pledge full labor solidarity to this just struggle and pledge the vast human and material resources of the AFL-CIO towards assisting the occupation at Standing Rock;

Be it further resolved that USW Local 8751 send \$1,000 to the Red Warrior Camp at Standing Rock in the spirit of "Solidarity Forever!".

*Passed unanimously by the membership at its meeting at the Boston Teachers' Union hall on September 22, 2016.*



Andre François, President



Stevan Kirschbaum, Vice President



Garry Murchison, Grievance Chair



Steven Gillis, Financial Secretary