TAA Resolution in Solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

WHEREAS, construction of the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline (DAPL) across the Missouri River near Cannon Ball, North Dakota threatens the cultural resources, treaty rights, and drinking water supply of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers moved the pipeline's Missouri River crossing from north of Bismarck, a majority-white community, to just north of the Standing Rock Reservation, an Indigenous community, due to the potential negative impacts of a pipeline breach on Bismarck's water supply, a clear-cut case of environmental racism, and

WHEREAS, pipelines such as DAPL facilitate the expansion of oil extraction, which directly threatens the stability of Earth's climate, contrary to the need demonstrated by scientists to immediately transition away from fossil fuels if we hope to preserve a livable planet for future generations, and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Sioux tribes have been encamped in prayer and ceremony at Sacred Stone Camp, near the junction of the Missouri and Cannonball Rivers, since April 1, and this presence has grown into additional camps now hosting thousands of Native Americans and their allies from across Turtle Island (North America) and beyond who have engaged in a number of direct actions aimed at stopping pipeline construction, and

WHEREAS, the company building DAPL, Energy Transfer Partners, has responded viciously and illegally to peaceful water protectors, including with private security forces using attack dogs, and by preemptively bulldozing potential archaeological sites along the route when those sites were identified in court documents, and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, including officers from the Wisconsin State Patrol and several Wisconsin County Sheriff jurisdictions including Dane County, have acted on behalf of Energy Transfer Partners by meeting water protectors with heavily armored riot police, armored military vehicles, and scores of unjustified arrests, including the arrest of a Madison alderperson who was filming a prayer ceremony, as well as the filing of trumped-up charges against award-winning journalist Amy Goodman, whose footage of the private security dog attack went viral, and

WHEREAS, organized labor has a responsibility to stand against injustice and in solidarity with oppressed people everywhere, in line with the principle of 'an injury to one is an injury to all,' and

WHEREAS, dozens of unions including National Nurses United, Service Employees International Union, Amalgamated Transit Union, Communication Workers of America, and many union locals, as well as the AFL-CIO's Labor Coalition for Community Action, have already declared their solidarity with Standing Rock against DAPL, and

WHEREAS, the AFL-CIO leadership has shamefully put forward a statement against our Indigenous brothers and sisters and in support of the continued construction of DAPL, and is

currently facing widespread calls from constituent unions to retract this position but has not yet done so, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Teaching Assistants' Association at UW-Madison, American Federation of Teachers Local 3220, stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their allies and calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Obama Administration to immediately and permanently halt DAPL construction, and

RESOLVED, that the TAA will donate $200 to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's Dakota Access Pipeline Donation Fund, and

RESOLVED, that members of the TAA are encouraged to visit the ceremonial camps near Cannon Ball and contribute to the struggle against DAPL in person, and

RESOLVED, that we call on AFT-Wisconsin and AFT National to pass similar resolutions in solidarity with Standing Rock and against DAPL, and

RESOLVED, that we call on the national AFL-CIO leadership to immediately reverse its stance on DAPL and apologize to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe for its short-sighted violation of the core labor movement principle of 'an injury to one is an injury to all.'