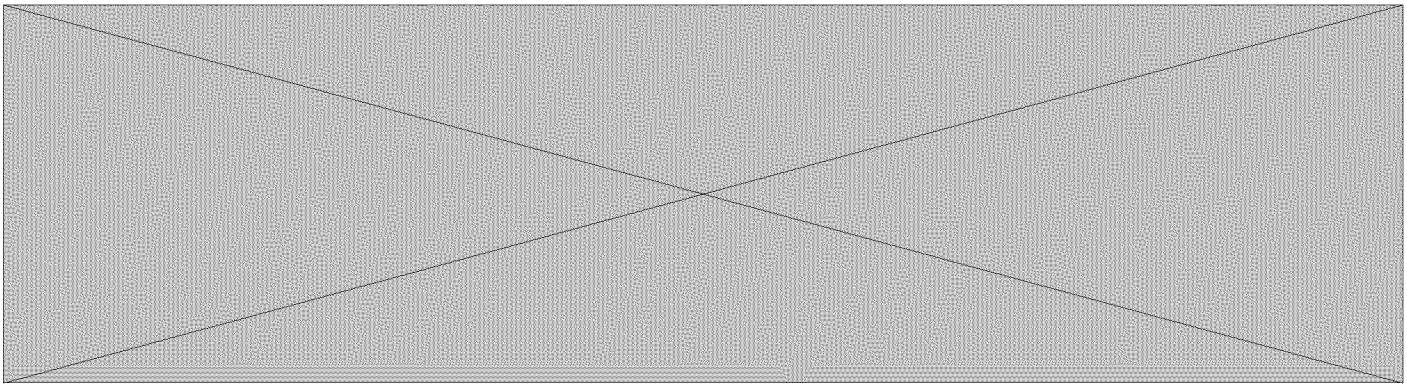
To: McGrath, Shaun[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]
From: Ed Fallon
Sent: Mon 11/28/2016 11:25:42 PM
Subject: Standing with Standing Rock: Day 1

Dear Friends,

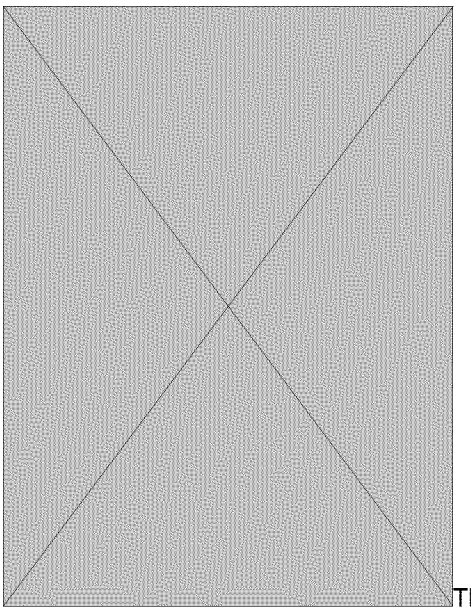
Sunday, November 27, 2016. Nothing about Standing Rock is normal or predictable. As Lyssa and I approach the Oceti Sakowin camps just north of Cannon Ball, North Dakota, our GPS navigator announces, “In six miles, park your car and walk to your destination.”

We ignore these instructions, as well as the sign telling us that the road ahead is closed. “Is this right,” asks Lyssa. “Shouldn’t we have taken that turn back there?”

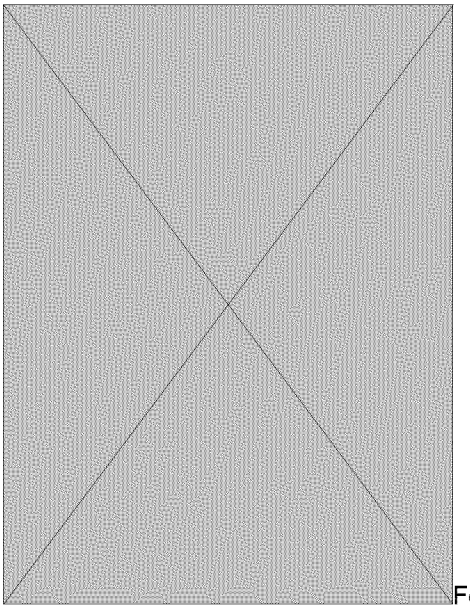
I confidently mutter a few words that belie my uncertainty. But we continue, and a few miles later over the crest of a hill, we gasp and fall silent. “Holy sh*t,” says Lyssa, as the sprawling, chaotic brilliance of Oceti Sakowin unfolds before us. The camps fill the valley, fill the imagination, defying all that is normal, conventional, acceptable.



I try to imagine the tipis of the Great Sioux Nation that once occupied these lands many years ago. I’m reminded that this movement is not simply about stopping an oil pipeline. As a coalition of our Native allies wrote, “Our fight is not just about a pipeline project. It is about 500 years of colonization and oppression. This is our moment, a chance to demand a future for our people and all people.”

 There's a check point at the camp entrance, and a young Native man tells us where to drop off donations. We have food, clothing, blankets and medical supplies, and each needs to be delivered to a different location. We get lost multiple times, ask directions, and each time receive conflicting instructions. The chaos visible from afar is quickly verified up close.

With our deliveries accomplished, we head across the Cannon Ball River to look for Mekasi Horinek, my colleague from Bold Oklahoma. We're hoping to pitch our tent in Mekasi's "neighborhood." But given the massive size of the camps and nonexistent cell phone service, we're unable to find him.

 Food service at the camps is stretched to the max, so we want to be as self-sufficient as possible. We set up our tent in a spot out of the wind on the south side of the Cannon Ball River. Lyssa pulls out her stove, and in less than an hour we're enjoying a delicious meal of mac and cheese with peppers from my garden in Des Moines.

At dusk, along with a couple thousand other water protectors, we head to the nearby casino for a benefit concert featuring Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt. Lyssa strikes up a conversation with a man who tells her he was in favor of the pipeline until just last week. He's very offended by the violent tactics used against peaceful protestors, and now dead set against the pipeline. He thanks Lyssa for being here, thanks her for speaking out, and gives her a casino voucher worth $21.95.

The last few weeks, I've heard from more and more people who haven't been involved with the pipeline fight but are now fired up and taking action. Opposition to fossil-fuel extraction and infrastructure is only going to continue to grow.

As we leave the concert, it's just starting to snow. We crawl along, following a long line of vehicles back to the camps. This is Lyssa's first time ever sleeping in a tent, and I tease her about her good fortune. "Not only do you get cold temps but you get snow, too."

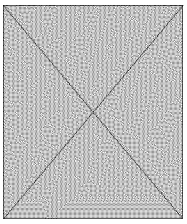
I am confident we can stay warm and dry. Any discomfort we encounter while tenting will be minimal compared to the hardship and injuries inflicted on water protectors who have been attacked mercilessly by law enforcement on several occasions.

Whether or not we'll encounter such violence remains to be seen. Tomorrow, we hope to meet with camp leaders, share with them an update on what's happening on the pipeline in Iowa, and help build cold-weather structures for those planning to stay at Standing Rock through the winter.

Listen to the Fallon Forum:

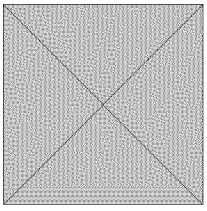
- Live Mondays, 11:00-12:00 noon CT on La Reina KDLF 1260 AM (Des Moines, IA)
- Outside of central Iowa, listen live here: FALLON FORUM LIVE-STREAM
- KHOI 89.1 FM (Ames, IA)
- KICI.LP 105.3 FM (Iowa City, IA)
- WHIV 102.3 FM (New Orleans, LA)
- KPIP-LP, 94.7 FM (Fayette, MO)

Thanks!



Ed Fallon

EVENTS



Tue, Nov 29 – Reflections: Water is Life – Stand in solidarity with Standing Rock (Hiawatha)
From 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Prairiewoods, 120 East Boyson Road. Join us for a celebration and reflection on water, in solidarity with the water protectors at Standing Rock and here in Iowa. We will begin with a ceremony and reflection (including song, poetry and prayerful contemplation). This portion will last approximately 30 minutes, and will take part both indoors and outdoors, so please dress accordingly! You are invited to bring your lunch and join us for a community meal and discussion after the ceremony. Beverages and dessert will be provided. This event is free, and all are welcome. Click here for more info.

Thu, Dec 1 – Weekly Peace Vigil (Des Moines)

From 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on the northwest side of the Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St. Join Catholic Peace Ministry and other peace groups every Thursday for a peace vigil. Bring your signs or banners for peace. Contact iowapeacenetwork@gmail.com.

Fri, Dec 2 – Iowa Farmers Union Annual Convention (Madrid)
From 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Iowa Arboretum – Hughes Education Center, 1875 Peach Ave. We have a busy agenda prepared, including: state and federal legislative reviews, sessions on pesticide drift and the CAFO moratorium campaign, workshops on water quality and the next Farm Bill, policy discussion, elections, and more! For more information on: Registering for the convention, Supporting the convention as an exhibitor or sponsor, Elections for IFU President, Vice President & Board of Directors, Submitting proposed policy amendments in advance of our 2016 policy discussion, visit our 2016 Convention Page.

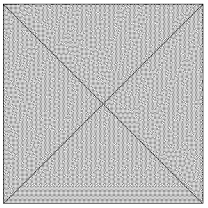
Fri, Dec 2 – Weekly Peace Vigil (Iowa City)
From 4:30-5:00 p.m. at the intersection of Iowa Ave. & Clinton St. Members of local peace groups gather to demonstrate for peace. Contact iowapeacenetwork@gmail.com.

Fri, Dec 2 – Weekly Peace Vigil (Cedar Rapids)
From 4:30-5:00 p.m. at 1st Ave. and 1st St. NE, across from the old Federal Building at the Tree of Five Seasons. Members of local peace groups gather to demonstrate for peace.
Contact iowapeacenetwork@gmail.com.

Sat, Dec 3 – The Solution is in the Soil (Polk City)
From 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Cherry Glen Learning Farm. Join 1000 Friends of Iowa for the 18th annual meeting. Focusing on the importance of soil, in honor of world soil day, we'll have a fun and interactive soil-focused day. We'll start with a tour of the farm, followed by great speakers, including organic farmer and soil fertility scientist Dr. Francis Thicke, a delicious lunch and a screening of the documentary *Dirt! The Movie* and much more! Click here to RSVP!

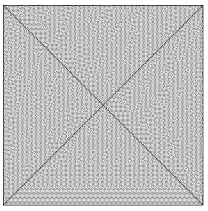
Sat, Dec 3 – IPN Open House and Alternative Gift Fair (Des Moines)
From 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Fellowship Hall of Stover Memorial Church of the Brethren, 4100 6th Ave. Join us as we get together for a time of fellowship and learning, and opportunities to give to various organizations as gifts for people on your Christmas list (Heifer Int'l, Church World Service, and others). Donations may be made, or there will be some tangible items to buy, such as Equal Exchange items (e.g. chocolate and coffee). At 2:30 pm, we will hear from Mel Duncan from Nonviolent Peaceforce, based in the Twin Cities. They are a non-partisan organization whose mission is to protect civilians in violent conflicts throughout the world without armed strategies (similar to Christian Peacemaker Teams). Duncan is an Iowa native.

Contact iowapeacenetwork@gmail.com or 515-255-7114.



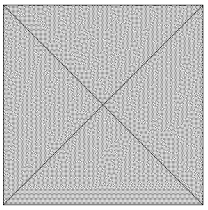
Sun, Dec 4-7 – Veterans for Standing Rock (ND)
We are veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the U.S. Army, United States Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard and we are calling for our fellow veterans to assemble as a peaceful, unarmed militia at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and defend the water protectors from assault and intimidation at the hands of the militarized police force and DAPL security. We'll be standing alongside peaceful water protectors, who've endured violent attacks from the private security funded by DAPL and more brutality and arrests at the hands of militarized police and DAPL security. We have full support of the Sioux tribe elders and will be cooperating with them every step of the way. The funds we raise on this page will go towards providing food, transportation and supplies for the brave patriots that come and stand with us. Click here for more info and to donate.

Tue, Dec 6 – First "Not Guilty" #NoDAPL Defendant Goes to Court (Boone)
At 9:00 a.m. at Boone County Court House, 201 State St. Any water defenders who may have been taking photos or video of Kriss Wells' arrest on August 31 are asked to step forward so that the legal team can start accumulating their evidence. Contact Sheila K-O at 515-339-7939.



Sun, Dec 11 – Iowa Interfaith Power & Light Dubuque Chapter Meeting (Dubuque)
From 3:00-4:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1276 White St. Join the Dubuque Chapter of Iowa IPL! We'll be sharing stories and resources, learning about different ways to assess our congregations on how they are caring for creation, and planning a "Green Team" Training day. All Dubuque and area congregations welcome to attend. Contact Sarah at programs@iowaipl.org.

Thu, Dec 15 – Stand in Court With Landowners vs. Dakota Access (Des Moines)
From 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Polk County Courthouse, 500 Mulberry St. Stand in court with Iowa landowners who are battling eminent domain for private gain and have refused to sell their land for the Dakota Access pipeline. We'll meet briefly to rally outside the courthouse at 8:30 a.m. before going inside to stand with landowners. Please respect courthouse rules: no signs, no phones, Pipeline Fighter t-shirts ok. March to and rally at Cowles Commons (300 Locust St) will follow court. Click here for more info.



Fri, Jan 13 – Stand in Court with #NoDAPL Land Protector Pleading "Not Guilty" (Rockwell City)
Time TBA, at Calhoun County Court House, 416 4th St. Land Protector Emma Schmit will appear in court in to plead "Not Guilty" to trespassing charges while participating in a Bold Iowa nonviolent action to stop Dakota

Access construction. Pipeline Fighters are invited to show up in court and stand in solidarity.

Wed, Feb 8 – Stand in Court with #NoDAPL Land Protector Pleading "Not Guilty" (Rockwell City)
Time TBA, at Calhoun County Court House, 416 4th St. Land Protector Heather Pearson will appear in court in to plead "Not Guilty" to trespassing charges while participating in a Bold Iowa nonviolent action to stop Dakota Access construction. Pipeline Fighters are invited to show up in court and stand in solidarity.

Wed, Feb 15 – Stand in Court with #NoDAPL Land Protector Pleading "Not Guilty" (Rockwell City)
Time TBA, at Calhoun County Court House, 416 4th St. Land Protector Mahmud Fitil will appear in court in to plead "Not Guilty" to trespassing charges while participating in a Bold Iowa nonviolent action to stop Dakota Access construction. Pipeline Fighters are invited to show up in court and stand in solidarity.

Email Marketing by

This message was sent to mcgrath.shaun@epa.gov from:

Ed Fallon | ed@fallonforum.com | Fallon Forum | 735 19th St. | Des Moines, IA 50314
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