



| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Originally Presented on: | 04/13/2017 |
| Type of Action: | Investigation |
| Status/Result: | New Business |

1 S.A. Resolution #36
2 Promoting University Action Against Pipeline Expansion
3
4

5 **Abstract:** This resolution urges Cornell University to acknowledge the human rights and
6 environmental implications of pipelines, and to take strategic institutional actions to inhibit their
7 expansion.
8

9 Sponsored by: Matthew Indimine '18
10

11 **Whereas,** pipelines remain an integral part of the fossil fuel extraction industry, in which
12 extraction, transportation, and combustion of fossil fuels has a detrimental effect on human
13 health and the environment;
14

15 **Whereas,** pipeline spills are responsible for extensive environmental damage and seriously
16 pollute clean water sources;
17

18 **Whereas,** environmental damage due to pipelines, train transportation of oil, and emissions from
19 processing refineries all disproportionately threaten low-income communities of color and/or
20 sovereign Native American communities on lands guaranteed through nation-to-nation treaties
21 who often do not have the resources to recover from such incidents that may destroy vital ways
22 of life;
23

24 **Whereas,** the average number of significant pipeline spills based on the past three years' data is
25 310, or nearly equivalent to one spill per day;
26

27 **Whereas,** the average numbers of fatalities and injuries due to significant pipeline incidents in
28 the past three years have been 15 and 74, respectively, which does not include other pipeline-
29 related fatalities and injuries;
30

31 **Whereas,** the costs of pipeline spills across the U.S. have exceeded \$4.7 billion since 2006,
32 footed by the pipelines' owners, though some environmental damage cannot be reversed with
33 money;
34

35 **Whereas,** as of mid-March 2017, there have been 35 significant pipeline incidents resulting in
36 one fatality, five injuries, and \$28,000,000 in costs;
37



Cornell University Student Assembly

38 **Whereas**, natural gas (methane) pipelines leaked around 13.2 billion cubic feet of the extremely
39 potent greenhouse gas methane into the atmosphere between 2010 and 2015, which is enough
40 methane to heat around 170,000 homes;

41
42 **Whereas**, the total number of permanent jobs to be created by a large pipeline such as the
43 Keystone XL pipeline is only around 35, making it a poor investment in terms of job growth;

44
45 **Whereas**, pipeline infrastructure also exists within the vicinity of Cornell University;

46
47 **Whereas**, the New Market Project by Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI), is a proposed natural
48 gas pipeline through Central New York State, the Southern Tier, and Pennsylvania that has the
49 necessary regulatory approval to break ground;

50
51 **Whereas**, this natural gas pipeline would impact wetlands, be an environmental hazard in the
52 likely event of a leakage, and decrease property values and homeowners' ability to obtain
53 insurance;

54
55 **Whereas**, the consultation process used to obtain government approval of DTI's proposed
56 pipeline did not specify deadlines for community comments and dismissed comments that were
57 submitted past the unspecified deadlines or lacked legal representation;

58
59 **Whereas**, this consultation process thus dismissed the voices of many New York State
60 communities and federally recognized Haudenosaunee Nations who will be impacted and may
61 have had strong reasons to oppose the project;

62
63 **Whereas**, Cornell University is situated on the unceded homelands of the Cayuga Nation, one of
64 the six nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy;

65 **Whereas**, the Haudenosaunee have a strong commitment to sustainable stewardship of their
66 homelands and have brought their concerns over the pollution of Onondaga Lake before the
67 United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

68
69 **Whereas**, DTI's proposed pipeline would create only 10-12 permanent jobs;

70
71 **Whereas**, NYSEG is concerned about the safety of the current state of natural gas infrastructure
72 in Tompkins County and has proposed to construct the West Dryden Road natural gas pipeline to
73 address this issue;

74
75 **Whereas**, this puts Tompkins County residents at physical and economic risk if something were
76 to go wrong with the West Dryden Road pipeline;



Cornell University Student Assembly

77

78 **Whereas**, the Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force has been
79 looking into alternatives to the West Dryden Road pipeline since its proposal in 2016;

80

81 **Whereas**, Tompkins County has demonstrated its commitment towards environmental
82 sustainability through its stated goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80% of 2008 levels
83 by 2050;

84

85 **Whereas**, the Dryden Research Coalition estimates that natural gas leakages from a new pipeline
86 may increase greenhouse gas emissions in Tompkins County by 28% over the 2008 emissions
87 figure, undercutting the County's goal;

88

89 **Whereas**, both of these local pipelines come with a set of serious environmental and health risks,
90 do not create job growth, may greatly increase greenhouse gas emissions, do not move towards
91 the region's renewable energy economy goals, and face local opposition from both individuals
92 and municipalities;

93

94 **Whereas**, the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) has become a flashpoint for struggles against
95 pipelines and fossil fuels across the United States and around the world;

96

97 **Whereas**, the Dakota Access Pipeline has been panned on an international level for its
98 unconstitutional violations of treaty obligations, desecrations of burial sites and sacred lands,
99 serious risks of environmental hazards, threats to the public water supply, and use of private
100 security violence, among other things;

101

102 **Whereas**, the Dakota Access Pipeline has been spearheaded by the "Energy Transfer Family"
103 (Energy Transfer Partners, Energy Transfer Equity, Dakota Access, and Sunoco Logistics),
104 which is financed by major international banks;

105

106 **Whereas**, if completed, the Keystone XL pipeline projected resurrected by the Trump
107 administration will pose similar threats to communities and the planet;

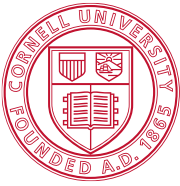
108

109 **Whereas**, Wells Fargo has committed over \$100 million directly to the Dakota Access Pipeline
110 through its financing of Energy Transfer entities;

111

112 **Whereas**, Wells Fargo also holds substantial investments in private prison corporations, the
113 subprime mortgage crisis, and other grave injustices against working and oppressed peoples;

114



Cornell University Student Assembly

115 **Whereas**, Cornell has an obligation to use its institutional power to fight social injustices and in
116 particular, to fulfill its obligation as a land grant college to benefit communities and the
117 environment;

118
119 **Whereas**, Cornell's Ithaca campus is committed to reaching carbon neutrality by 2035 through
120 the Climate Action Plan (CAP);

121
122 **Whereas**, the University's sustainability efforts have thus far earned a celebrated STARS Gold
123 rating and historically placed Cornell as AASHE's most "green" campus;

124
125 **Whereas**, given Cornell University's history as a land grant institution situated on the homelands
126 of the Cayuga Nation who were forcibly removed by the Continental Army in 1779, Cornell
127 University ought to join institutions such as the University of California system in using its
128 institutional power to ensure the safety of the local communities it is pledged to serve and to give
129 a stronger voice to Indigenous Peoples;

130
131 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University shall publicly condemn the Dominion, West
132 Dryden, Dakota Access, and Keystone XL pipelines;

133
134 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University shall commit its resources as a land-grant
135 institution to fighting local pipeline expansion and aiding in the development of alternative
136 energy infrastructure;

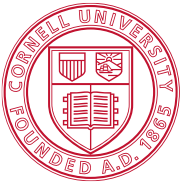
137
138 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University conduct and publish a review of its financial and
139 programmatic ties to Wells Fargo Bank, Energy Transfer Partners, Energy Transfer Equity,
140 Dakota Access, and Sunoco Logistics, entities closely associated with the Dakota Access
141 Pipeline;

142
143 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommend that President Pollack forward
144 this resolution to the Board of Trustee's Investment Committee to consider establishing financial
145 ties to Native-owned banks such as F&M Bank and Lumbee Guaranty Bank, banks owned by
146 people of color, or local banks and credit unions.

147
148 **Respectfully Submitted,**

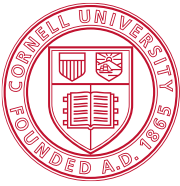
149
150 Skye Hart '18 (Tonawanda Band of Seneca, Snipe Clan)
151 *Co-Chair of Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC)*

152
153 Christopher Hanna '18



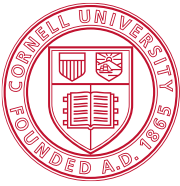
Cornell University Student Assembly

- 154 *Co-Facilitator of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
155
156 Helen Shanahan '18
157 *Co-Facilitator of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
158
159 Jevan Hutson B.A. '16, MPS '17 (Cherokee)
160 *Co-Chair of the Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA)*
161
162 Dylan Stevenson Ph.D '21 (Potawatomi)
163 *Co-Chair of the Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA)*
164
165 Alissa Jaquin '18 (Onondaga)
166 *Member of Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC)*
167
168 Isis Encinas '20
169 *Member of Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC)*
170
171 Emerson Shenandoah '20 (Onondaga, Snipe Clan)
172 *Member of NASAC*
173
174 Hi'ilei Casco '18 (Native Hawaiian)
175 *Co-President, Cornell Hawai'i Club*
176
177 Shannon Nakamoto J.D. '18 (Arikara)
178 *President, Cornell Law School's Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)*
179
180 Zachary de Stefan '18
181 *Secretary of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
182
183 Alexandra Phelps '20
184 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
185
186 Yoorie Chang '20
187 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
188
189 Shaikh Talha Khurram '19
190 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
191
192 Kristine Lister '18



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 193 *Urgent Action Coordinator of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
194
195 Cecilia Faringer-Perez '18
196 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
197
198 Hillary Yeboah '17
199 *President of the ALANA Intercultural Board*
200
201 Jaëlle Sanon '19
202 *Vice President of Public Relations of First Generation Student Union*
203 *Executive Director of Cornell Lending Library*
204
205 Leighton Fernando Cook '18
206 *Co-Chair of el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA)*
207
208 Arwa Awan '17
209 *Co-President of the Islamic Alliance for Justice (IAJ)*
210
211 Kyla Chasalow '20
212 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
213
214 Samir Durvasula '17
215 *Vice President of South Asian Council (SAC)*
216 *President of Cornell Hindu Students Council (HSC)*
217
218 Luis Verdi '19
219 *Vice President of Operations of First Generation Student Union*
220 *Chapter Development Chair of Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)*
221
222 Cole Norgaarden '17
223 *Director of Environmental Justice Initiatives, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
224
225 Delmar Fears '19
226 *Political Action Chair of Black Students' United (BSU)*
227
228 Jaylexia Clark '19
229 *Co-President of Black Students United (BSU)*
230
231 Christopher Talavera '19



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 232 *President of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. - Chi Chapter*
233 *Campus Visit Co-Chair of CU IMAGE*
234
235 Maria Chak '18
236 *Co-President of Minority Industrial and Labor Relations Student Organization (MILRSO)*
237
238 Krystle-Mei Chow '18
239 *Director of Partnerships, Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (CAPSU)*
240
241 Stephanie Hahm '17
242 *Facilitator, Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (CAPSU)*
243
244 Maxime Inglard '18
245 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
246
247 Santiago Uhlmann '19
248 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*
249
250 Elizabeth Chi '18
251 *Ex Campaign Coordinator, Climate Justice Cornell*
252
253 Amy Li '20
254 *Member of Climate Justice Cornell at Cornell University*
255
256 Helen Kuo '20
257 *Member of Climate Justice Cornell at Cornell University*
258
259 Lavannya Pulluveetil Barrera
260 *Co-Chair of el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (MEChA)*
261
262 Brendon Brown '18
263 *Outreach Chair, Climate Justice Cornell*
264
265 Erin Holbrook '19
266 *Education Chair, Climate Justice Cornell*
267
268 Nathaniel Allan-Rahill '18
269 *Campaign Coordinator, Climate Justice Cornell*
270



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 271 Keshara Senanayake '18
272 *Vice President of Promotions for the Class of 2018*
273
- 274 Allison Considine '17
275 *Chancellor of Agitation for the Cornell Organization for Labor Action*
276
- 277 Emily Dong '18
278 *Director of Advocacy, Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (CAPSU) & Member of*
279 *Asian Pacific Americans for Action (APAA)*
280
- 281 Travis Ghirdharie '17
282 *President, Cornell University's First Generation Student Union (FGSU)*
283
- 284 Katy Habr '18
285 *Treasurer, Cornell Organization for Labor Action*
286
- 287 Xiao Yin Ma '18
288 *Member of Asian Pacific Americans for Action (APAA)*
289
- 290 Annie Fernández '17
291 *Chair, Cornell IvyQ LGBTQ Conference*
292
- 293 Simone Smith '20
294 *Logistics Chair, Women of Color Coalition*
295
- 296 Jennifer Juliano '17
297 *Co-Facilitator, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
298
- 299 Leilani Peralta '20
300 *Member of Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
301
- 302 Christopher Galantino '19
303 *Community Development Committee, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
304
- 305 Emma Hoarty '19
306 *VP of Communications, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
307
- 308 Audrey Stanton '19
309 *President of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 310
311 Mitchell Lee '19
312 *VP of Community Development, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
313
314 Fauna Mahootian '19
315 *Member of Design Committee, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
316
317 Jessica Biggott '20
318 *Member of Society for Natural Resource Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
319
320 Sophia May '20
321 *Member of Cornell Organization for Labor Action (COLA)*
322
323 Gabriela Vega '19
324 *General Body Secretary, Climate Justice Cornell (CJC)*
325
326 Simran J. Khosla '20
327 *Member of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI @ CU)*
328
329 Gwyn Sofka '19
330 *Vice President and Secretary of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell*
331 *University (SNRC)*
332
333 Sukanya Dayal '19
334 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
335
336 Maya Chang Matunis '20
337 *Member of Climate Justice Cornell (CJC), Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
338
339 Briana Joan Binkerd-Dale '17
340 *Member of Climate Justice Cornell (CJC), Non-Traditional Student Organization Cornell*
341 *University (NSOCU)*
342
343 Elizabeth Villedrouin '19
344 *Public Relations Coordinator of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell*
345 *University (SNRC)*
346 *Philanthropy Chair of Les Femmes de Substance*
347



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 348 Amy Gonzalez '20
349 *Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
350
351 Deidra Wirakusumah '17
352 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
353
354 Steven Maré '20
355 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
356
357 Emma Badini '20
358 *Member of Climate Justice Cornell (CJC) at Cornell University*
359
360 Keanna Chang '18
361 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC) and*
362 *Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
363
364 Hassan Saleem '20
365 *Member of Cornell Organization for Labor Action*
366
367 Julie Kapuvari '19
368 *Community Retention Coordinator of Climate Justice Cornell (CJC) and Member of Cornell*
369 *Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
370
371 Yorda Girmay '19
372 *Member of Climate Justice Cornell (CJC) and Society for Natural Resources Conservation of*
373 *Cornell University (SNRC)*
374
375 Amairani Marin Tovar '20
376 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
377
378 Adam High '20
379 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
380
381 Read Barbee '20
382 *Member of Project Greenhouse, Cornell Wildlife Society and Cornell Beekeeping Club*
383
384 Sam Schultz '18
385 *Co-president of Project Greenhouse, Member of Friends of the Gorge (FOG) and Ecology*
386 *House*



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 387
388 Taylor Hughes '18
389 *Director of Waste Not, Co-Director of Cornell Thrift*
390
391 Marlene Berke '19
392 *Member of Society for Natural Resources Conservation of Cornell University (SNRC)*
393
394 Cynthia Chu '20
395 *Member of Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
396
397 Chelsea Peterson '19
398 *Member Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
399
400 Venus Dulani '19
401 *Co-President of Big Red Bikes and Member of the International Student Union (ISU)*
402
403 Brittney Thompson '18
404 *Member of Cornell Waste Council (CWC)*
405
406 Nadine Fuller '19
407 *Member of Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)*
408
409 Gunnar Glover '19
410 *Member of Cornell Waste Council (CWC)*
411
412 Matt Indimine '18
413 *EVP, Student Assembly*
414
415 Ana Yu '17
416 *Vice Facilitator, Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union*
417
418 Alanna Salwen '19
419 *Co-Chair, Young Democratic Socialists at Cornell*
420
421 Eli Corning '20
422 *SA Env. Committee Member, Young Democratic Socialists at Cornell Member*
423
424 Janet Back '19
425 *Public Affairs Chair of Amnesty International at Cornell University (AI@CU)*



Cornell University
Student Assembly

426

427 Kelly McClure '17

428

429 (*Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 3/28/17*)