



October 4, 2016

The Honorable Jack Dalrymple
North Dakota Governor
600 E Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0100

Dear Governor Dalrymple,

NDFB is extremely disappointed with the situation that has transpired regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, and we believe stronger leadership on your part is needed.

Landowners and our members have been willing sellers of easements, all the proper protocols have been followed, and yet in the last two months the project has come to a screeching halt. Trespass laws and private property rights have been trampled. At each step along the way, you as our state's chief executive, have done very little to protect the property and lives of the rural landowners along the right of way. At this point, the lack of decisive action has put the landowners and the pipeline company in an extremely bad situation which was not necessary.

There is a huge problem with leadership when families are relying on law enforcement to escort school buses, and families fear for their lives within their own homes. What is happening is not part of a peaceful protest; it is part of a semi-organized mob. The precedence this action sets will have a long-lasting impact on other business ventures in North Dakota. The Rule of Law is being tested and the lack of action by our state government tells out-of-state special interest groups, which are fanning the flames of extortion and insurrection, our state will cave in to their tactics.

Would this type of protest be allowed to impact other lawful business ventures? Why is this activity allowed to continue? Farmers and ranchers have had their businesses negatively impacted because the pipeline that should have been in the ground (and reclamation progressing), has been put on hold.

How would you feel if protesters kept you from harvesting crops, or if your children required a police escort to attend school? This is not the wild west of the 1870s. We are supposed to be better than that. The Rule of Law is supposed to stand for something, regardless of what our U.S. President has done to the contrary. The citizens of North Dakota expect more from their governor.

NDFB calls on you to take immediate and decisive action to end the travesty of justice taking place around this project. If no serious action is forthcoming, we will be forced to appeal directly to the citizens of our state to more actively demand an end to this crisis.

Sincerely,

NDFB President

Fargo

1101 1st Ave. N. | PO Box 2064, Fargo, ND 58107-2064
Phone: 701-298-2200 | 1-800-367-9668

Bismarck

4900 Ottawa St. | PO Box 2793, Bismarck, ND 58502-2793
Phone: 701-224-0330 | 1-800-932-8869