Memorandum Regarding the Sioux Protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline

180 years ago today, the defenders of the Alamo held out courageously for 13 days in their heroic endeavor to fight and resist oppression. Their sacrifice has become a paramount symbol not only for Texans, but for all Americans to stand and fight for what they believe in, no matter how stacked the odds against them may be. The actions of these brave souls embody the values of spirit, commitment, and courage.

Today, we see these values no better exemplified than by the people of Standing Rock. Who, despite having little to no media coverage, withstanding malicious intimidation tactics, still stand to defend what they hold sacred to their hearts and their heritage, even gaining the support of non-Native peoples. The treatment of Native Americans in this country does not tell a proud history. It is littered with the tears, blood, and graves of many innocent Native lives. In a nation where we say all men and women are created equal and allotted equal protection under its most powerful doctrine, it is unfortunate to observe any group in this day and age to be treated with such disrespect, malice, and animosity.

UTSA holds a core value of inclusiveness. We are a minority serving institution and hold that core value sacred to our hearts and our heritage as a university. It is time that America exemplify this value and be inclusive of its Native population and end the exploitation of their lands and their people. We, the Student Government Association of the University of Texas at San Antonio, stand in solidarity with Standing Rock and wish them well in their endeavor to fight and resist oppression in the modern age; akin to the defenders of the Alamo.

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