

For Immediate Release:  
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## **UNIONS REPRESENTING DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE WORKERS CALL FOR CONTINUED LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE TO PREVENT TRAGEDY**

### *Pipeline Labor Groups Release Statement*

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN (October 28, 2016)** – A coalition of Building and Construction Trade Unions from across Minnesota and North Dakota, whose members are building the Dakota Access Pipeline, called for continued law enforcement presence on the project and thanked local agencies for sending personnel to help keep the peace. In recent weeks, protesters have repeatedly entered active work sites, endangering hundreds of union workers and the protesters themselves. Today the coalition released a statement regarding the latest developments:

“When people decide to use force and intimidation tactics against innocent workers that prevents them from doing their jobs, it negates the idea that this is an entirely peaceful demonstration,” according to Tim Mackey, Business Manager of the Laborers Union Local 563. “Just yesterday, they were blocking roads, refusing to leave privately owned land, setting fire to vehicles and construction equipment, throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails, and even firing a gun at a deputy, according to news reports.”

“Unfortunately, the use of aggressive protest tactics is not new on the Dakota Access right-of-way, and it’s why our members were increasingly afraid for their safety before law enforcement presence was beefed up. We believe the presence of law enforcement personnel from Minnesota and other neighboring states may be the only reason no one has been badly injured or killed.”

“As members of organized labor, we fully support every American’s constitutional right to peacefully protest. However, when the safety of working men and women is disrupted by violence and intimidation, measures that protect public safety must be taken,” said

Glen Johnson, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 49. "We thank law enforcement officers from all agencies for their commitment to maintaining our members' right to a safe work environment."

After weeks of ambush attacks designed to shut down construction up and down the pipeline right-of-way, pipeline opponents recently set up camp on privately owned land near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, in the direct path of the pipeline. Despite multiple requests by law enforcement for protesters to leave the area, the group has refused to leave, giving law enforcement little choice but to clear the camp.

As unified members of the Laborers International Union of North America, Operating Engineers Local 49 and UA Pipefitters Union we ask for the continued presence of law enforcement at these sites in order to keep them peaceful and safe.

**ATTENTION EDITORS and REPORTERS:** Interviews with these newsmakers can be scheduled with Robb Leer at 612.701.0608 or [robbl@leercommunication.com](mailto:robbl@leercommunication.com).

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