

## **Statement of Solidarity with Ramapough Lenape Nation**

WHEREAS, the 352-mile Pilgrim Pipeline would carry over 200,000 barrels of dirty crude oil per day from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota, through New York to New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline is slated to pass through the tribal lands of Ramapough Lenape Nation near Bergen and Passaic counties in New Jersey and Rockland County in New York, and cuts across 3 major drinking water rivers, numerous smaller streams and two EPA designated sole source aquifers (the Ramapo Aquifer and the Buried Valley Aquifer) in New Jersey and 232 regulated streams in New York; and

WHEREAS, millions of workers, including many union members, and their families and communities live in the path of the proposed pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the transport of heavy crude is particularly volatile, leading to 76,000 barrels of oils and chemicals spilled, leaked, or released into the air, land, and waterways every year between 1983 and 2013, causing death, contamination of soil and water, and disease of many kinds; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans and other activists defending their land and water have the same right to defend their land and engage in non-violent protest as workers who are protesting the actions of an unfair employer; and

WHEREAS, we know that the real threat to workers' lives and livelihoods is catastrophic climate change; and

WHEREAS, many large corporations, and especially fossil fuel corporations, have been putting profits ahead of the common good of workers, the public, and the environment, and these corporations have been granted the unjust constitutional rights and powers of personhood, with the doctrine of money as speech through activist Supreme Court decisions thereby diminishing democracy and the voice and power of the people; and

WHEREAS, we support the rights of our union brothers and sisters building the pipeline to work in safe environments at jobs that are consistent with respect for the environment and the rights and safety of frontline communities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we of GWC-UAW Local 2110 Organizing Committee call upon the New Jersey and New York State Departments of Environmental Protection to reject Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings' applications for permits to build this oil pipeline; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the GWC-UAW Local 2110 Organizing Committee stands with a labor movement that supports a just transition to a renewable energy economy and investment in the construction of a nationwide sustainable energy infrastructure that will address the growing threat of climate change and its consequent droughts, floods, fires, crop failures, species extinctions, and other dire consequences of global climate change.

RESOLVED, that the GWC-UAW Local 2110 Organizing Committee will join with other UAW and Local 2110 members and labor organizations to promote a just transition to a sustainable alternative energy economy that protects ecological integrity and respects the rights of all working people to good paying and safe jobs, human rights, and justice for all.

**Graduate Workers of Columbia – UAW Local 2110, Organizing Committee**

