

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 1, 2017

Minneapolis MN- On January 1st, 2017, during the Vikings/Bears football game at US Bank Stadium, two people using ropes and climbing harnesses hung hundreds of feet above the field displaying a large banner urging US Bank to divest from the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Sen Holiday, one of two climbers states, "We are here in solidarity with water protectors from Standing Rock to urge US Bank to divest from the Dakota Access Pipeline."

US Bank has 175 million dollars in credit lines to Energy Transfer Partners, a parent company of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Controversy surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline has grown in recent months, and the project has seen several major setbacks. Today, January 1st, marks the original deadline for completion of the pipeline. Today, the pipeline is still incomplete. Investors have the right to withdraw business contracts from the project, and we urge them to do so.

The pipeline's route violates treaty rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and poses a significant threat drinking water and the health of the Missouri River.

"This pipeline is dangerous for any community it passes through. It wasn't safe for the residents of Bismarck, and its not safe for the Standing Rock Sioux," says Karl Zimmermann, the second climber involved in today's banner.

Originally planned to pass upstream of Bismarck, North Dakota the pipeline was rerouted after citizens expressed concern for the safety the city's municipal water supply. According to the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, the pipeline currently is routed through treaty lands of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. And, although the tribe has expressed similar concern over safety for drinking water, Energy Transfer Partners remains committed to the completion of the pipeline.

Construction of the pipeline was approved without adequate tribal consultation, has already destroyed cultural sites of the Standing Rock Sioux, and violates treaty rights.