

Governor Walz and President Biden,

We are here in prayer and ceremony to protect what we all need to live. Governor Walz has violated his oath of office, which requires him to honor the U.S. Constitution, including Article VI which states that treaties are the supreme law of the land. Line 3 violates treaties by threatening water, manoomin, and our climate, leading to the loss of usufructuary and cultural rights. He has also erected barricades and posted guards to lock Minnesotans who oppose this pipeline out of the people's house, continuing a trend of colonial violence marked by handing control and funding of the police to a transnational corporation, untold violations of civil rights, and criminalization of dissent.

It's incredibly clear what his actions say: there is no space for sovereign nations, no space for people, in the decisions of the state. The fence is a metaphor for the militarized responses that are now his go-to, as we see when he puts full cities under curfew and occupation instead of allowing us to grieve collectively in peace. We come led by Native grandmothers and with sacred tipis, he puts up a fence.

President Biden, as well, has failed to uphold treaties and the principle of free, prior, and informed consent by allowing the project to proceed without nation to nation consultation with sovereign tribes opposed to the project.

We demand action to honor our treaties and stop Line 3. President Biden must revoke Line 3's Clean Water Act permits to conduct a federal Environmental Impact Statement, rescind Line 3's Presidential Permit, or commit to other action to stop Line 3 from coming into service.

We have engaged in thousands of hours of meetings and regulatory processes here in St Paul. We have written letters, testified, intervened legally, and worked to be heard every way we know how. Today, we must stay here peacefully and in prayer for as long as it takes to be heard. Because this country has shown that it can't hear Indigenous voices and those that stand for a livable future -- yet. We are all Treaty People and we all have an obligation to uphold. Denying treaty rights is a civil rights violation and a violation of international law.

Honor our treaties and stop Line 3.