For immediate release

Tribes opposing Keystone XL promise to stop it in its tracks

August 8, Lincoln, Nebraska - The Intertribal Coalition of Nebraska and the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma met today in Lincoln, NE to take a stand against the construction of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline by signing the <u>Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion</u>. After the signing today, over 150 Tribes in the US and Canada, including the Nations all along the KXL route in Alberta, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and now Nebraska, will have committed to standing together to stop Keystone XL and the other three tar sands pipelines: Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline through Minnesota, Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion through British Columbia and TransCanada's Energy East.

"Along with our Indigenous allies all along the KXL route like the Oceti Sakowin (Great Sioux Nation) and all over Turtle Island (North America), we recognize the grave dangers in allowing this 'Black Snake' to enter our homelands", said Chairman Larry Wright Jr. of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. "As the State of Nebraska stands poised to make a potentially life-altering decision about permitting this poisonous bitumen to be inflicted on its population, we stand poised to protect all life now and in the future."

Following the signing of the Treaty at the Graduate Hotel in Lincoln, NE, the Chairmen of the Intertribal Coalition of Nebraska and other invited guests led a Prayer Walk to the State Capitol of Nebraska. This historic event took place amid the weeklong public hearing on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline before the Nebraska Public Service Commission, which is expected to make a final decision on the pipeline permit by the end of the year.

"We are standing together in prayer. We are aware of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* and our Treaty Rights as they pertain to the permitting of the pipelines in our present and traditional territories", added Councilwoman Casey Camp-Horinek on behalf of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. "In solidarity and with respect and love for our Mother Earth and future generations, we say NO to KXL."

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