

Rep. Brostoff: Condemns Use of Wisconsin State Troopers Against NoDAPL Water Protectors

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MADISON – State Representative Jonathan Brostoff issued a statement on the deployed of 17 Wisconsin State Troopers and inspectors to North Dakota to help with the removal of protesters against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). Under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national disaster-relief compact that offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency, states may request assistance from some or all states.

“While this pact has a noble purpose, I believe it is being used in a way that does not truly fit its original intended purpose, not only practically but morally. Under Wisconsin Statute 323.80, Article 2, Section B, the purpose of providing such assistance to a requesting state is defined as “essential to the safety, care, and welfare of the people in the event of any emergency or disaster declared by a party state.”

In the months since the actions against DAPL began, it has been the safety of the water protectors that has been compromised, not of the officers present nor other North Dakotans.

“For 6 months, water protectors have been living in camps in Cannonball, North Dakota and peacefully resisting the construction of the Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partner’s Dakota Access Pipeline. If finalized, the pipeline would cross under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that serves as the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s drinking water source. Since the beginning of the No DAPL protests alone in April 2016, close to 30 pipeline bursts have been reported in the United States. One of these occurred just 150 miles from Cannonball, spilling

176,000 gallons. Of that, 130,000 gallons of oil leaked into Ash Coulee Creek.

“Our country’s history is plagued with the taking of lives and rights of First Nation’s people. As a state, Wisconsin should stand with its 11 federally recognized tribes, all of which support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe water protectors fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline. We, as a state, must not participate in further subjugation of the political power of Native American people to the benefit of the interests of the rich.”