

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors
Representative, 103rd District

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House Judiciary Committee
Representative Fred Patton, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 172. This bill is “knee jerk” type of legislation that is directed at Native Americans because of the incidents that happened during the Dakota access pipeline project. In 2016, protestors in North Dakota had been fighting a pipeline that cut through ancestral land of significance and feared the pipeline could leak and contaminate the primary water supply on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. Native Americans from all over the country protested the Keystone pipeline. Unfortunately, there was a spill from the Keystone pipeline that reached the South Dakota farmland.

These types of bills have surfaced all over the country for the past 4 years since the Standing Rock protest occurred. This is a step backward by creating fear in people to exercise their freedom of speech and right to protest on various issues. Throughout my years in office, I have learned that we may not agree on everything, but I do respect everyone’s rights and opinions on various issues.

In conclusion, I urge you to please do not support this “knee jerk” type of legislation because it is unnecessary and there is no anti-pipeline movement in Kansas.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best,

Rep. Dr. Victory

Rep. Dr. Ponka-We Victors