



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 29, 2020

Mr. LIGHTWOOD of New York (for himself, Mr. PUTIN, Mr. WHITE, Mr. MOH, Mr. SHEPHERD, and Ms. WELD) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To prohibit oil and gas pipelines through native sovereign nations in the United States.

Be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Respect Indigenous Lands Act” or “RILA”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) TRIBAL NATION.— The term “Tribal Nation” is a Native American tribe, Alaska Native village or similar concept is any extant or historical clan, tribe, band, nation, or other group or community of Native Americans in the United States.
- (2) COMPANY.— The term “company” refers to a commercial business.
- (3) CORPORATION.— The term “corporation” refers to a company or group of people authorized to act as a single entity, legally a person, and recognized as such in law.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS

Congress finds that—

- (a) Constructions of an oil and or gas pipeline can spark outrage within Tribal nations if the pipeline is projected or outlined to go through a nation.
- (b) Time after time Tribal nations have been advocating for a stop to every single pipeline project that goes through their sacred land.
- (c) Oil and Gas pipelines pose a huge threat to the environment and our soil. In which it is hard to clean up and can contaminate the land area around it.
- (d) Oil spills can result in harm to human health and the environment, including injuries or fatalities to fish and wildlife, and contamination of drinking water supplies.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF OIL & GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTIONS ON TRIBAL NATIONS

- (a) PROHIBITION— Henceforth, under no circumstances, no person, company, corporation or any other entities shall be granted or be able to build an oil and or gas pipeline through any of the 574 federally recognized tribal nations in the United States without the express approval of the tribal nation.
- (b) The U.S Bureau of Indian Affairs and any other Department, Bureau, or Federal Agency that is responsible shall decline all proposals that go through any tribal nation.

SEC. 5. ENACTMENT.

EFFECTIVE DATE.— The provisions of this Act shall come into force immediately upon passage.
