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*At Amherst College, Some Say It's the Mascot's Turn to Embrace Diversity*

*The Light-Beam Rider*

**COMPANY BEHIND KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ASKS FOR PAUSE IN PROJECT**



**Pyramid Lake Paiute**

**Tribe Holds North America's Oldest Petroglyphs (Video)**

The reservation is home to the oldest recorded petroglyphs in North America, dating back at least 14,800 years. "Pyramid Lake has been home to our ancestors for whitewolfpack.comlBy White Wolf

<http://www.whitewolfpack.com/2013/08/pyramid-lake-paiute-tribe-holds-north.html>

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**MISSION INDIAN FEDERATION**

**The Mission Indian Federation (MIF)** was Southern California's most popular and long-lived grass-roots political organization.

Between 1919 and 1965, its membership wrestled with some of the most difficult political and legal questions of the 20th century.

The MIF asserted rights to internal sovereignty, rejecting the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) paternalism. The MIF's clashes with the federal government's BIA employees in the Mission Indian Agency (MIA) continually had its members in court, but occasionally confrontations turned violent.

In 1934, Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier described the MIF's aspirations toward sovereignty saying the organization "resisted the work of the Indian service in the spirit of ousting a foreign power from the native soil or beating off an invasion of a foreign power."

Drawing its membership from reservation and non-reservation California Indians of Southern California, the MIF could best be described as a quasi-governmental, pan-Indian organization purporting to represent the collective will of Southern California's reservation people....

The MIF's purpose was to end Mission Indian Agency abuse and paternalism and to bring equal rights, justice, and "home rule" for Southern California's Indians....

-Above excerpts: [SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES University of California, Irvine \(please click HERE for for more detailed facts, personal accounts and historical information about the Mission Indian Federation MIF\).](#)

*Above Riverside County historical photo pictures a group of the Mission Indian Federation members in front of the Mission Inn, Riverside, CA., 1908 picture.*

### **JONATHAN TIBBET, Founder**

JONATHAN TIBBET JR. was born January 5, 1856 on his father's ranch in the vicinity of San Gabriel...Tibbet's youth was spent tending cattle and horses and learning from the Indians of the area. Tibbet was taught their languages and eventually came to speak 11 dialects along with fluent Spanish. As a young man he served as a scout and the chief of scouts for the U.S. Army....

*-Excerpts from a biography by Richard A. Hanks  
Jonathan Tibbet held meetings and conferences at his residence in Riverside, California, as pictured in these vintage 1900s California Indian historical photographs.*

### **PRESIDENT ADAM CASTILLO**

One of the most revered presidents of the MIF was President Adam Castillo, a well-known Cahuilla Indian activist. Adam Castillo also served as the chairman of [Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, Soboba Indian Reservation near San Jacinto, CALIF.](#)

From the early 1900's the Mission Indian Federation, under the leadership of [Adam Castillo](#), until his death in 1953, was the compelling influence in the redressing of economic, political, and legal grievances of the American Indian people. Mr. Castillo also served as the Tribal Chairman for the Soboba Band of Mission Indians. (In 2003 the tribe changed its name to the [Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians](#), as did many other tribes, dropping the word "Mission").

The Mission Indian Federation under the leadership of Mr. Castillo successfully challenged the United States Government and won some very major political victories. The first was the dismissal of charges against 57 members of the Mission Indian Federation for "Conspiracy against the U.S. Government" by the U.S. District Courts in Los Angeles, California in 1923. The Government's contention was that the 57 members of the Mission Indian Federation were promoting "Bolshevistic Doctrines".

[DOWNLOAD HIGH RESOLUTION POSTER MISSION INDIAN FEDERATION](#)

1920 historical photo by Avery Edwin Field, courtesy of Ben Magante, Pauma Yuima Band of Mission Indians, photo by Avery Edwin Field. Original CALIE MIF poster 24x48".

## **INDIANS COULD NOT BE US CITIZENS UNTIL 1924**

Many Native American Indians could not become United States citizens until 1924 — [Indian Citizenship Act of 1924](#) — the members of the Mission Indian Federation helped influence that change.

MIF members also pursued many other unfair local, state and federal policies that discriminated against Indigenous Americans, including hard-fought tribal sovereignty issues, and securing Indian rights promised under the [18 Unratified Treaties of 1851-1852 Between the California Indians and the United States Government](#), said [Ernie Salgado Jr., Soboba tribal member](#) and executive director of [Ahmim Education, Inc.](#)

[AMERICAN TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY](#) — American tribes practiced their own forms of government for thousands of years before European intrusion and the formation of the United States government. The Constitution of the United States, U.S. Supreme Court, federal and state laws, as well as historical treaties all support the tribes' present-day legal rights to self-government and certain forms of tribal sovereignty....

LINKS to facts, historical pictures, information for research about the Mission Indian Federation

[OFFICIAL SITE: www.missionindianfederation.com](#)

History, Biography, Conference

[SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES University of California, Irvine](#)

General Description, Mission and Ideology, Membership and Organizational Structure, The Appeal of the MIF

[RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM](#)

Indian Posters & Documents, Antique Historical Pictures

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Please [CONTACT the webmaster](#) to contribute articles or links for publication.

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## **USDA Awards Grants to Tribal Nations for Nutrition Education Program**

**Release No.**FNS 0006-15

**Contact:**FNS Office of the Chief Communications Officer (703) 305-2281

Albuquerque NM, June 15, 2015 – While representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the annual conference of the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations today, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Under Secretary Kevin Concannon announced close to \$1 million in grants to support nutrition education programs for participants of the USDA's [Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations \(FDPIR\)](#). In total, 15 nutrition education projects serving participants in 17 states were selected through a competitive award process that was open to tribal nations and state agencies that administer FDPIR.

“USDA is committed to working with American Indian communities to create a healthy start for children, and provide the nutrition assistance that will lead to healthy lives,” Under Secretary Concannon said. “The awardees have developed creative, self-initiated projects designed to assist participants with incorporating healthy foods and physical activity as daily lifestyle habits.

This program supports the [Generation Indigenous \(Gen-I\) initiative](#) by helping to ensure tribal youth have access to healthy food - a challenge on reservations that often do not have access to a grocery or other healthy alternative except through USDA nutrition programs. Six of the awardees are located in areas receiving additional technical assistance through USDA’s [StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative](#), and one awardee is located in a community selected for [the Obama Administration’s Promise Zones Initiative](#).

This funding will allow American Indian tribes like the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to expand and create new projects to better their community. The Choctaw Nation’s 2015 FDPIR nutrition education grant will build on a project funded in 2014 to add a hoop house as a central location to provide gardening education. This project will encourage FDPIR participants to increase their daily intake of fruits and vegetables by conducting food demonstrations with foods that are grown and harvested as a result of hoop house activities. This is just one example of the steps that USDA is taking to provide nutrition education among FDPIR participants that can lead to healthier lifestyles.

The full list of awardees includes:

- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Midwest Region Nutrition Advisory Committee, via the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Indian Reservation in New Mexico
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Oklahoma
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin
- Mountain Plains Region Nutrition Advisory Committee via the Spirit Lake Tribe in North Dakota
- Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana
- The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation in Montana
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington
- Lummi Nation in Washington
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California

Since fiscal year 2008, USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service has provided up to \$1 million annually in nutrition education grants for projects that benefit FDPIR participants and those eligible for FDPIR. Last month, USDA announced new funding opportunities for state agencies and tribal nations to develop innovative strategies to prevent hunger and food insecurity.

FDPIR operates as an alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for low-income American Indian and non-Indian households. Recipients either reside on a

reservation, in a household located in approved areas near a reservation, or in Oklahoma where at least one person is a member of a federally recognized tribal nation. The program provides a [package of USDA Foods](#) that has been selected to enable participants to maintain a nutritionally-balanced diet that is consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Currently, there are 276 American Indian tribes participating in FDIPIR through 100 tribal nations and five state agencies. This program serves approximately 87,000 individuals each month.

FDPIR is one of 15 nutrition assistance programs administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service that works in conjunction with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, and the Summer Food Service Program. Together these programs make up the federal nutrition safety net.

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### **National philanthropic roundtable on Native American nutrition deemed a “historic, breakthrough moment”**

*Unprecedented gathering of funders plans next steps to develop national strategies to solve Indian food crisis*

**Minneapolis, Minn.** – The [American Heart Association \(AHA\)](#) and the [Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community \(SMSC\)](#) convened representatives from 41 national philanthropic organizations October 14-15th in Minneapolis. Participants focused on the grave problem of Native American nutritional health and agreed on key steps and planning to develop solutions.

“This discussion around Native American agriculture, healthy food access, nutrition, and dietary issues was unprecedented and desperately needed,” said SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig. “At the roundtable, major players in philanthropy explored actionable strategies to support capacity building efforts, to invest in research and advocacy, and to empower Native American



communities to ensure culturally appropriate solutions to this crisis. The concrete next steps that resulted from this convening will help move Indian Country forward.”

The roundtable resulted in two major outcomes:

1. Through additional outreach to participating organizations, AHA and SMSC will identify strategies to help support the development of plans for investing in Indian Country and collaborating on projects.
2. Officials began planning a second convening in the first quarter of 2016. The next roundtable will explore advocacy opportunities and discuss ways to build technical assistance, training, and other supports needed to succeed.



Organizations which were unable to attend are still welcome to join the effort to improve Native nutrition and learn from the discussions held at the roundtable

“Last week’s roundtable was an historic, breakthrough, moment for dozens of organizations seeking common ground to address nutrition and health across tribal nations” said Nancy Brown, CEO of the American Heart Association. “These families in Indian Country need our support, resources and expertise, and we’ve taken an important step in getting them on the path to improved health.”

The SMSC was represented by its three elected Business Council representatives, Chairman Charlie Vig, Vice-Chairman Keith Anderson, and Secretary/Treasurer Lori Watso. The AHA was represented by Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, chief medical officer for prevention, and Jill Birnbaum, executive director of [Voices for Healthy Kids](#). [Wilson Pipestem](#), a member of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and a prominent American Indian lawyer, moderated the roundtable.

Speakers included:

- [Alison Babb, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota’s Center for Prevention](#)
- [Jill Birnbaum, American Heart Association](#)
- [Zach Ducheneaux, Intertribal Agriculture Council](#)
- [John Fetzer, Northwest Area Foundation](#)
- [Janie Hipp, University of Arkansas School of Law’s Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative](#)
- [Justin Hueneman, Notah Begay III Foundation](#)
- [Judith Le Blanc, Native Organizers Alliance](#)
- [Jasmine Hall Ratliff, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)
- [Michael Roberts, First Nations Development Institute](#)
- [Lori Watso, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community](#)

Participating organizations included those that have robust Native American philanthropic portfolios, as well as those that are new to making targeted investments in Indian Country. Major national foundations included the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, Clinton Foundation, Bush Foundation, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, and the Northwest Area Foundation. Attendees also included high-ranking federal health officials from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Indian Health Service.

The impetus for the first-of-its-kind gathering came from the SMSC’s [Seeds of Native Health](#) campaign to improve Native American nutrition and from the recent release of [Feeding Ourselves](#), a comprehensive report commissioned by the AHA and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that examines the barriers to food access and their link to health disparities in Indian Country. [Echo Hawk Consulting](#), the firm that produced the Feeding Ourselves report, developed and guided the Fertile Ground event as part of the SMSC and AHA’s ongoing work to improve the health of tribal nations.

A video about the Feeding Ourselves report is available [here](#). Photos from the Fertile Ground Reception are [available here](#). Photos from The Fertile Ground Funders Roundtable Meeting are [available here](#). Additional photos are available by request.

### **About the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community**

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy. Having donated more than \$325 million since opening its Gaming Enterprise in the 1990s, as well as providing more than \$500 million in economic development loans to other tribes, the SMSC is the largest philanthropic benefactor for Indian Country nationally and one of the largest charitable givers in Minnesota. The Seeds of Native Health campaign to improve the nutrition of Native Americans was launched in March 2015 with a \$5 million contribution from the SMSC.

### **About the American Heart Association**

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – the two leading causes of death in the world. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org) or call any of our offices around the country. [Shared from: EchoHawk Consulting and Seeds of Native Health.](#)

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## **History**

**The Indian Land Tenure Foundation** (ILTF) originated in the 1990s when a group of concerned Indian landowners, land rights advocates, and tribal leaders came together to do something about the serious problems affecting Indian land tenure—the terms and conditions by which Indians hold land. From their own experiences living and working in Indian Country, these individuals saw firsthand the many challenges and injustices Indian people were facing in respect to the ownership and management of their lands. They saw that:

- Indian lands were continuing to be lost to non-Indian ownership
- The fractionated ownership of Indian land title was making it increasingly difficult for Native people to use and benefit from their lands
- The federal system set up to manage and protect Indian trust lands and assets was causing Indian landowners to lose income from leases and other earnings
- The laws, policies and regulations dealing with Indian lands were inconsistent, often unjust and, in some cases, unconstitutional

At the time, organizations such as the Indian Land Working Group, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Intertribal GIS, Native American Community Development Corporation, Indian Law Resource Center and others were working independently on specific aspects of Indian land tenure. However, even though these groups were making a difference in certain areas, a coordinated and focused effort was really needed to resolve the major Indian land tenure issues over the long term.

To address this need, in 1998, the Northwest Area Foundation provided technical and financial support to assist the Indian land tenure community (some of whom were either staff or board members of the organizations mentioned above) with a planning process to clarify the community's goals and to develop a broad-based strategic plan. Four years later in 2002, the Northwest Area Foundation provided a \$20 million grant to create the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, with a mission to ensure that:

Land within the original boundaries of every reservation and other areas of high significance where tribes retain aboriginal interest are in Indian ownership and management.

Recognizing that Indian land tenure involves a complex set of related issues, ILTF identified four overall strategies to address each major area of concern. The [strategies](#) are: education, cultural awareness, economic opportunity and legal reform. As ILTF works toward its goals of land recovery and increased Indian ownership and control of Indian land and assets, it has continued to promote the following principles:

- Inclusion of diverse voices and interests from throughout the Indian land community
- Self-determination of tribes and Indian people
- Knowledge and the ability to take action

Since inception, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation has awarded more than \$11.1 million in grants and contracts and has provided \$6.9 million in direct program services.\* ILTF continues to expand its grantmaking capabilities through its investments and the generous support of foundations, Indian nations, corporations and individual donors.

*\*As of April 2013*

## **Grants**

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation is devoted to serving Indian nations and Indian people in the recovery and control of their rightful homelands. Our programs and initiatives are focused in the following strategic areas: education, cultural awareness, economic opportunity and legal reform. We make grants to Indian nations and nonprofit organizations, and work closely with several affiliate organizations, who share our mission and goals.

## **Land Tenure Curriculum**

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation provides free Indian land tenure curriculum for all educational levels. Visit [Lessons of Our Land](#) for pre-K and K-12 or see below for college level curriculum.

We also have [grants available](#) for curriculum adaptation and implementation.

## **Head Start & K-12 Curriculum**

### **Lessons of Our Land**

Lessons of Our Land is an interdisciplinary Indian land curriculum designed to align with existing state standards and is adaptable to include the history and culture of the region's Indian nations.



## **Educational Focus**

- Head Start
- K-12

## **Curriculum Components**

- Meets state standards in multiple core areas: history, art, civics, mathematics, science, geography, language arts and more
- Grade-level appropriate lessons in four key content areas
- Wide variety of online resources teachers can use to supplement their lessons
- Includes a teachers guide for curriculum integrations

## **State Adaptations**

- California
- Minnesota
- Montana

In addition to state adaptations, there are general lessons which can be used to teach Native Land Tenure History anywhere in the United States.

[Access Lessons of Our Land](#)

## **College Curriculum**

### **Native Land Tenure History**

The Native Land Tenure History course is intended to serve as a starting place for faculty to develop a course particular to the academic field in which it will be offered. It discusses Native land tenure issues and problems currently facing Indian people outlined as an introductory, three or four semester credit, college-level course.

### Curriculum Components

- Background on Indian land tenure history and issues
- Course design that allows for easy modification to suit the individual needs of each instructor
- Sample 15-week course syllabus focusing on four major content areas:
  - Historical origins of Native land tenure
  - Major western concepts of Native "property" law
  - Use and management of Native land
  - Re-acquisition of the Native land base

[Access College Curriculum](#)

## **Strategic Land Planning**

The Strategic Land Planning course addresses the strategic land planning process and is designed to be taught in tribal and community colleges, aimed at students who are interested in community-based planning and development.

### Curriculum Components

- Includes historical, legal, cultural, ecological and economic aspects of Indian land tenure and land use
- Application of specific problem-solving and strategic land planning practices to research, develop, implement and evaluate land tenure and land use decisions
- Participatory planning approach that engages all affected persons
- Emphasizes combined academic and experiential learning opportunities through partnerships, applied problem-solving research, community outreach and community



service.

[Access Curriculum](#)

<http://www.upworthy.com/what-if-you-could-power-your-entire-home-with-a-giant-futuristic-sun-fueled-robo-flower-td2-5d?c=click>

The next leg of the **Sierra Nevada Geotourism** auction will be announced soon. If you'd like to participate in the auction, learn more, or donate to have your Sierra business highlighted, email Senior Program Director [Nicole Benter](#).

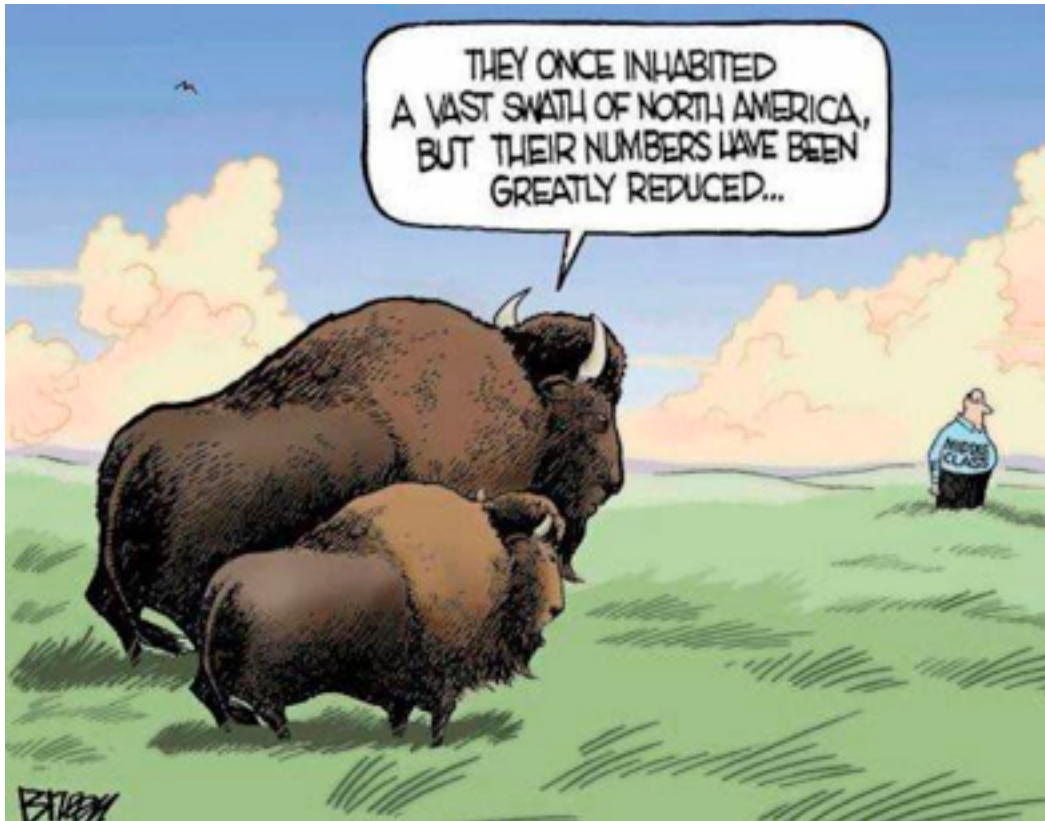
#### ***ABOUT THE PROJECT***

The Sierra Nevada Geotourism Project is a partnership between Sierra Business Council and Sierra Nevada Conservancy, working with National Geographic to capture the history, heritage, and attractions distinctive to the Sierra Nevada Region in an interactive website, print map, and mobile app.

#### ***QUICK LINKS***

[Geotourism Map Guide](#)

[Download the Free Mobile App](#)



<http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/318-66/33226-do-indian-lives-matter-police-violence-against-native-americans>

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## **Petition: Make Contemporary American Indian Issues a Part of Social Studies Classes**

A recent study of American textbooks finds that American Indian issues are virtually ignored in school... (748 signatures on petition) [thepetitionsite.com](http://thepetitionsite.com)

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## **At Amherst College, Some Say It's the Mascot's Turn to Embrace Diversity** **By JESS BIDGOOD**

The colonial legacy of Lord Jeffery Amherst, the unofficial face of the college, has generated increasing opposition, but traditionalists are resisting calls for a change.

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## **The Light-Beam Rider** By WALTER ISAACSON

**The 100th anniversary of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity reminds us that creativity is based on imagination - and that we should let kids daydream.**

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## **COMPANY BEHIND KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ASKS FOR PAUSE IN PROJECT**

The move comes with the U.S. government apparently poised to reject the controversial pipeline before Obama leaves office.

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