**Bolin, Vanessa – Safety Hazards**

My name is Vanessa Bolin, and I want to tell you a little about who I am, and I really want to talk to you, judges; and I want to invite all of you who are standing in the back talking to come up here because I have a warning for you.

I am Native American, I'm an activist, I’m an artist and most importantly I'm a water protector. I was in Standing Rock from August until I was taken out at gunpoint February the 23rd. I want to bring a warning about some things that are about to happen here in Virginia. Dirty facts that are hidden and not talked about, or talked about in hushed tones.

Today I wear red in honor of the missing and murdered indigenous women from the Dakotas, Canada, and across the country, as there are these big influxes of man-camps coming in. Violent crime increases, sex trafficking happens, women are killed. The most marginalized, the prostitutes, the LGBT community, children, vulnerable populations of people disappear and are never found, or are found dead. You are about to face that because these man-camps are coming unless this pipeline is stopped.

I also want to talk to you about the violence that will be brought not just by these man-camps with their drugs and their alcohol and their abuse, but I want to talk about the violence that we saw in Standing Rock by a state-sponsored police force protecting the pipeline. They did not protect the people who they were sworn to protect. Instead, they became the private security for the pipeline. I have been shot with rubber bullets. I have been maced, pepper sprayed and am a connoisseur of it. I have been hit with beanbags, and shrapnel from concussion grenades. I have watched and taken care of people as a medic out in camps that were sprayed with water cannons in 27 degree weather. All state-sponsored violence to protect a for-profit pipeline.

You have to wake up. I look out here and I see many people that I've been fighting this battle with since I came back from North Dakota, and many who are friends that have been around for a long time. I don't want to preach to the choir. I want the people who are idly standing by and allowing this to happen to know these things are real. We have to protect our most vulnerable communities, our people of color, natives, our land. We are looking at not only the rape of Mother Earth, we're looking at the rape of our communities. It is up to each and every one of you to keep fighting this battle. You are not alone. We will stand together.

We can stop these pipelines from happening and being built, but I implore you to please, please know this isn't just the rape of the land. There are women and children about to fall into horrible sex trafficking. That's already an epidemic in this country, but it will become worse and more prevalent here in Virginia.

So I thank you for your time, and please if you are still idly standing by and unsure, are afraid to take a stand, please, please do not let them build these pipelines and bring the violence and the exploitation of the marginalized communities to West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina. Thank you.