

Resolution Calling for a Ban on Fracking

WHEREAS, the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas release from shale involves the use of hazardous chemicals and other hazardous materials during construction, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, gas production and delivery, well maintenance, and workover operations; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing of underground geologic formations is often accomplished by injecting a complex mix of fluids and chemicals, including large volumes of water, on average 4.5 million gallons per well, under very high pressure to create fractures in gas-bearing geologic formations; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have documented adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, there have been more than a thousand documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites; some people who live near these sites can now light their drinking water on fire; and

WHEREAS, wastewater from fracking can contain radioactive elements and has been discharged into rivers that supply drinking water for millions, according to the *New York Times*.

WHEREAS, use of these hydraulic fracturing mixes exposed adjacent land and surface waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage, truck transport on roadways, and activities during well development; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as part of the federal Energy Policy Act and over objections of health care, scientific, environmental, and conservation communities, regulation of hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency was exempted, thereby allowing oil and gas companies to use these substances without federal oversight or standards; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal law to publicly disclose chemical formulas of hydraulic fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly available for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, former President George W. Bush's EPA point person on water now admits fracking should never have been exempted from regulation, and

WHEREAS, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act ("FRAC Act"), which is currently pending in Congress, would repeal the fracking exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act and require disclosure of chemicals used in fracking; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Township's water supply is drawn in part from the Delaware & Raritan Canal, which delivers water from the Delaware River Basin to this area; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of Franklin Township's water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Franklin Township's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than by attempting to cleaning up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the ____ day of ____ 2011, Franklin Township strongly supports passage of the FRAC Act;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Franklin Township supports a statewide and national ban on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas until the technology has been improved and proven to have no negative impact on the environment, thus preventing our drinking water supplies from being **contaminated or** depleted for fracking;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Franklin Township will send a letter to our State Representatives and Senator Menendez calling for a ban on fracking for the immediate future, and asking Senator Menendez to join Senator Lautenberg, Congressman Pallone and Congressman Holt as co-sponsors of the FRAC Act, H.R. 1084/ S. 587;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Franklin Township supports strong regulation by the Delaware River Basin Commission to prevent pollution and avoid degradation of the water resources and ecosystems of the Delaware River Watershed;

CERTIFICATION

I, Ann Marie McCarthy, clerk of the township of Franklin, in the county of Somerset, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Council at a regular meeting held on the ____ day of ____, 2011.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Township this ____ day of ____ 2011.

Ann Marie McCarthy
Township Clerk

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THIS SIGNED RESOLUTION TO:

1. [town's state representatives]
2. [town's congressional representative]
3. *Senator Robert Menendez, One Gateway Center, Suite 1100, Newark NJ 07102*
4. *Senator Frank Lautenberg, One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102*
5. *Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 300 Pond Street, 2nd Floor, Bristol, PA 19007*
6. *Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901*