

RESOLUTION 2014-212

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build a bi-directional pipeline through the Township of Chatham that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will have a detrimental impact on tax revenue of the Township of Chatham based upon a decline in the property values along and adjacent to the new pipeline and surrounding neighborhoods as a direct result of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline raises significant safety concerns for the Township of Chatham, as well as harm to municipal and county infrastructure, and a negative impact upon future growth in the community; and

WHEREAS, September 3, 2014 marked the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Department of Interior Wilderness Act and setting in motion the establishment of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the first Wildlife Refuge in the nation, and

WHEREAS, numerous Township residents played a pioneering role in establishing the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and over the 50 year history have helped it grow from 2,600 acres to 7,800 acres, donating land, funds and countless volunteer hours to create a national treasure; and

WHEREAS, the Township has championed conservation efforts and the projected path of the Pilgrim Pipeline, traverses the heart of the Township with a portion running parallel to the Great Swamp increasing the risk of contamination to the watershed, and

WHEREAS, the inability to mitigate the dangers that this Pipeline poses to our environment as well as our community, we the Township Committee have tremendous reservations and concerns about the ability for this Pipeline to endanger the health, safety and welfare of our citizens, families, property and environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, in the County of Morris, that the Township Committee opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline, and calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, surveying or construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline through the Township of Chatham and because this Pipeline will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the

municipality and the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Committee requests a full environmental review be conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the request of Pilgrim Pipeline Company, dated October 16, 2014, to conduct a preliminary survey, as well as environmental and archeological studies on Township of Chatham properties is denied.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Steven M. Sweeney, State Senator Richard J. Codey, Assemblyman John McKeon, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, all Morris County municipalities and the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Adopted: November 13, 2014

TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM IN
THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

Attest:

Gregory J. LaConte, Clerk

By _____
Kevin Sullivan, Mayor