

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON OPPOSING PROPOSED
PILGRIM PIPELINE**

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

WHEREAS, the pipeline will carry oil extracted from North Dakota’s Bakken shale through the process of hydraulic fracturing or fracking, an extreme method of oil and gas extraction that depletes and despoils clean water resources, creates toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and contributes to the climate change crisis by releasing large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim pipeline raises significant safety concerns for the Borough of Madison, as well as potential harm to municipal and county infrastructure, and likely negative impact upon future development in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison is concerned that heavy construction equipment will also be in close proximity to homes and foundations due to the constraints of available workspace. Temporary workplace usage will also severely impact the existing soil reducing water absorption and may increase future flooding possibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the pipeline, and its proposed route, which crosses through residential neighborhoods. These communities will be in the “impact radius” should an explosion and or spill occur; and

WHEREAS, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the potential for a pipeline explosion could harm hundreds of people, we express grave concerns about this project negatively affecting the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council’s responsibility is to provide a safe environment for its residents and this pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project may result in a loss of tax revenue for the Borough of Madison based on right-of-way agreements with Pilgrim Pipeline and a decline in the property values of homes along and adjacent to the new pipeline and surrounding neighborhoods as a direct result of the project; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature recognized the significance of the New Jersey Highlands region and afforded special protection to the region and its resources in 2004 with the passage of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. The Act created

the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council and the Highlands Regional Master Plan to ensure planning would be used in the Highlands to combat sprawl and the depletion of water quality and quantity as the region provides drinking water to 5.4 million state residents; and

WHEREAS, the federal government acknowledged the exceptional value of the Highlands resources and the urgent need for their preservation in 2004 when Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act which "recognizes the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational and cultural resources of the Highlands region, and national significance of the Highlands region to the United States; and

WHEREAS, many Borough residents depend on ground water and public community water systems for water supply and septic systems for waste disposal and this project will impact ground water quality and quantity and the septic fields of residents along and adjacent to the right of way; and

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

WHEREAS, protection of the Borough of Madison's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison, in the County of Morris, that the Borough Council opposed the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline, and calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying or construction of the Pilgrim pipeline through the Borough of Madison and because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the municipality and the Highlands region, the Council requests a full environmental review, including a Highlands Act review, be conducted by the DEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.;


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to 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 AND APPROVED
October 15, 2014



ROBERT H. CONLEY, Mayor

Attest:



ELIZABETH OSBORNE, Borough Clerk