

TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

Resolution of the Township Council opposing the proposed construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline.

Resolution No. R2014-226

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company ("Pilgrim") is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline through the Township of Pequannock 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, in February, the Wall Street Journal compared oil from 86 locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the most explosive; and

WHEREAS, bringing this fuel into our community endangers our families, property, and the environment; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the pipeline 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 Township 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 Township of Pequannock 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 resource based 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 Highlands resources and the urgent need for their preservation in 2004 when Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act which "recognize[s] the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources of the Highlands region, and the national significance of the Highlands region to the United States;" and

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

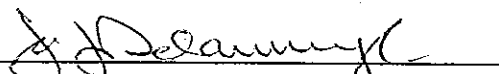
WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of the Township's water supplies and water and other natural resources for generations to come; and

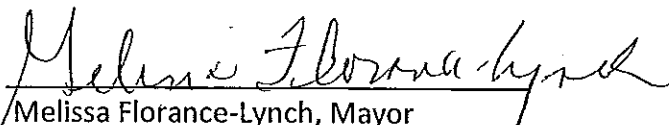
WHEREAS, protection of the Township's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Pequannock, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Council opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.
2. The Township Council call for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim pipeline through the Township of Pequannock.
3. Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the Township and the Highlands region, the Council requests a full environmental review, including a Highlands Act review, be conducted by the NJDEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.
4. The Township Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to.
 - NJ Governor Chris Christie
 - State Senator Kevin O'Toole
 - State Assemblyman Scott Rumana
 - State Assemblyman David Russo
 - Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 - The Sierra Club-New Jersey Chapter, 145 W. Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08618
 - The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders
 - All Morris County Municipalities

Adopted: November 25, 2014


Joseph J. Delaney, Jr., Township Clerk


Melissa Florance-Lynch, Mayor