

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-109

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford 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 would 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 and we express grave concerns about this project negatively affecting the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is the Township Committee’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 Cranford 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 municipalities depend on ground water and public community water systems for water supply, and septic systems for waste disposal and this project would 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 water supplies and water and other natural resources for generations to come; and


WHEREAS, protection of 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 Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, as follows:

1. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline;
2. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim pipeline through the Township of Cranford;
3. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford requests a full environmental review, including a Highlands Act review, be conducted by the DEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project because this project would traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the municipality and the Highlands region;
4. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford seeks the cooperation of other similarly located and affected municipalities, asking that all nearby affected municipalities adopt a similar resolution;
5. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford adopts, and calls upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each Township to join together to enter their appearance in any proceeding before the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and any other regulatory authority, so that by their strength of numbers they may successfully oppose the Pilgrim Pipeline project and have the ability to cause the relocation or termination of the project so as to prevent environmental degradation and to protect the public health and safety;

6. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford directs the Township Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to New Jersey Governor Chis Christie, Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Leonard Lance, State Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., State Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick, State Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, New Jersey Highlands Executive Director Margaret Nordstrom and Councilmembers, 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, all Union County municipalities, and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held January 13, 2015.



Tara Rowley, RMC
Township Clerk

Dated: 1/13/15