

RESOLUTION of the
VILLAGE OF HARRIMAN
OPPOSING THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company ("Pilgrim") is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline ("Pipeline") through the Village of Harriman 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 has been found to contaminate clean water resources, 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 volatile. Bringing this fuel into our community endangers our families, property, and environment; and

WHEREAS, the Village is concerned that bringing this fuel into and through our community endangers our surface and subsurface water sources, rivers and streams and our environment as a whole; and

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Materials Administration (PHMSA) issued a safety alert on January 2, 2014, to the general public, emergency first responders, and shippers and carriers regarding the particular flammability of Bakken Crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board is concerned about the hazards the Pipeline project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the Pipeline, and its proposed route, which crosses near residential neighborhoods. These communities will be in the "impact radius" should an explosion and or spill occur; and

WHEREAS, any rupture or compromise of the pipeline, even without an explosion or fire, could, in the opinion of the Village Board, require extraordinary cleanup efforts, force residents from their homes, and place a large number of residents in close proximity to hazardous materials; 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 one fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

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

WHEREAS, the Village Board's responsibility is to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this Pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above; and

WHEREAS, all Village residents and many residents of the Towns of Monroe and Woodbury depend on Village of Harriman ground water for water supply, the integrity and safety of which may be jeopardized by the Pipeline Project; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources requires protection of area water supplies and other natural resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of the Village 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 that the Village Board of the Village of Harriman:

1. Opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.
2. Calls upon the New York State Thruway Authority to reject the use of its right-of-way for the purpose of transporting oil or gas by pipeline, and further calls upon the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to deny an exception to its Accommodation Plan for said purpose; and;
3. Urges Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to oppose the construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline in New York State.
4. Authorizes and directs the municipal clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following persons and entities:
 - a) NY Governor Andrew Cuomo
 - b) State Senator William Larkin
 - c) State Senator John Bonacic
 - d) State Assemblyman James Skoufis
 - e) State Assemblyman Karl Brabenec
 - f) Food and Water Watch, NY State office, 68 Jay Street, Suite 713, Brooklyn, NY 11201
 - g) The Sierra Club – Atlantic Chapter, 353 Hamilton Street, Albany, NY 12210
 - h) All Orange County Municipal Village Boards and Town Boards
 - i) Orange County Executive Steven Neuhaus
 - j) Orange County Legislature

ATTEST:

_____, Clerk

_____, Mayor