



196 Main Street, New Paltz, New York 12561 • Tel. (845)256-4020 • Fax (845)256-4025

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**Resolution Opposing the Construction of the Pilgrim Pipelines**

Aimee Hemminger  
President

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC, is proposing to build two pipelines through or adjacent to New Paltz High School land that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

Michael O'Donnell  
Vice President

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety 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

Brian Cournoyer  
Member

**WHEREAS**, any incident involving rupture or ignition would greatly exceed the combined capacity of our local response agencies; and

Alison Easton  
Member

**WHEREAS**, the pipelines would carry a large volume of Bakken crude oil near New Paltz High School, placing students, faculty, and staff in immediate and direct danger should an explosion or spill occur, threatening the health, safety, and welfare of our community; and

Steven Greenfield  
Member

**WHEREAS**, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, PHMSA only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of oil and gas pipelines in the United States, and only a fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and 80 percent of spill incidents were the result of corrosion, equipment failure, incorrect operation or material and weld failures; and

Sophia Skiles  
Member

**WHEREAS**, any rupture or compromise of the pipelines, even without an explosion or fire, would require extraordinary cleanup efforts, and could force the New Paltz Central School District to temporarily educate our high school students at an alternative location; and

Matthew Williams  
Member

**WHEREAS** New Paltz High School depends on ground water and public community water systems for potable water supplies, the integrity and safety of which may be jeopardized by construction and operation of the pipelines; and

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Maria C. Rice

**WHEREAS**, the Pilgrim Pipelines also threaten important surface water resources, including the wetlands at the eastern end of the New Paltz High School parcel; and

**WHEREAS**, New Paltz Central School District Superintendent Maria C. Rice refused a Right-of Entry and Survey Permission Agreement related to the Pilgrim Pipelines in August, 2014; and

**DISTRICT CLERK**  
Dusti Callo

**WHEREAS**, this resolution stands in solidarity with resolutions passed by the Village of New Paltz and the Town of New Paltz;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the New Paltz Central School District Board of Education:

1. Opposes the construction of the proposed Pilgrim Pipelines and calls upon the New York State Thruway Authority, the New York State (NYS) Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Federal Highway Authority to reject use of the Thruway's right-of-way for the purpose of transporting oil or gas by pipeline; and

2. Urges Governor Cuomo to reject construction of the Pilgrim Pipelines in New York as they are antithetical to the ambitious clean energy goals he has set for the State; and

3. Directs the District Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Thruway Authority Acting Executive Director Bill Finch, NYS DOT Commissioner Matt Driscoll, the Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator; U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Representative John Faso, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senators John Bonacic and George Amedore, Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos.

*Adopted by the Board of Education February 1, 2017*