

RESOLUTION

CITY OF RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY

No. AR-23-15

Date of Adoption January 12, 2015

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

- WHEREAS,** Pilgrim Pipeline Company LLC (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline through the City of Rahway 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 2014, the *Wall Street Journal* compared oil from 86 locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the most explosive [although should be more appropriately described as extraordinarily flammable]. Bringing this fuel into our community endangers our families, property, and environment.
- WHEREAS,** the Pilgrim pipeline raises significant safety concerns for the City of Rahway, as well as potential harm to municipal and county infrastructure, and likely negative impact upon future development in the community; and
- WHEREAS,** the Rahway City Council is concerned that heavy construction equipment will also be in close proximity to homes and foundations due to the constraints of available workspace. Temporary workspace usage will also severely impact the existing soil reducing water absorption and may increase future flooding possibilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Rahway City Council 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 US Dept. of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) has only 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.

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 Council's responsibility is to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above, especially since the route being surveyed is in close proximity to three schools, a house of worship, group homes, a Girl Scout camp, businesses, residences, and firehouse, thereby interfering with vital emergency services during construction and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project may result in a loss of tax revenue for the City of Rahway 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, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of Rahway's water supplies and water and other natural resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Rahway'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 Mayor and Council of the City of Rahway in the County of Union as follows:

- A. The Council opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.
- B. The Council calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline through the City of Rahway.
- C. Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the City, the Council requests a full environmental review to be conducted by the NJDEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.
- D. The Council seeks the cooperation of other similarly located and affected municipalities, asking that all nearby affected municipalities adopt a similar resolution.
- E. The Council adopts and calls upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each municipality to join together 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.
- F. The Council directs the municipal clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following:
 - 1. NJ Governor Chris Christie
 - 2. State Senator Nicholas Scutari
 - 3. Assemblyman Jerry Green
 - 4. Assemblywoman Linda Stender
 - 5. Food & Water Watch
 - 6. Sierra Club – NJ Chapter
 - 7. Union County Freeholders
 - 8. All Union County Municipal Councils

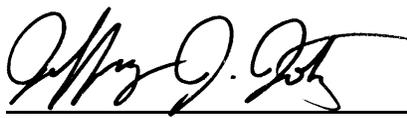
M– Wenson Maier

S – Entire Council

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Rahway at the Regular Meeting held on 1/12/15.

YES: Baker, Cox, Farrar, Giacobbe, Miles, Mojica, Wenson Maier, Bresenhan

ABSENT: Brown



City Clerk