

## RESOLUTION

### RAMAPO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION TO OPPOSE THE PILGRIM PIPELINES

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build two new oil pipelines through the Ramapo Reservation and Ramapo State Park that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The pipeline would impact dozens of municipalities in New York and New Jersey, including Mahwah and Oakland in Bergen County, and would come within hundreds of feet of the Ramapo College campus, threatening the public health, safety and economy of the students, teachers and faculty who depend on this important State institution.

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.

WHEREAS, Ramapo College’s President Dr. Peter P. Mercer, in 2008, signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment—a nationwide push by a growing number of college and university presidents who hope to have their institutions lead by example by becoming climate neutral—expressing his concern about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects.

WHEREAS, The opposition of the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline would be consistent with President Mercer’s Climate Commitment and would help protect the academic community locally and the biosphere globally.

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.<sup>1</sup> Bringing this fuel into our community endangers our students, faculty, staff, school buildings, and environment.

WHEREAS, The Pilgrim pipeline raises significant safety concerns for Mahwah and Ramapo College, as well as potential harm to local infrastructure, and likely negative impact upon future development in the community;

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing

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<sup>1</sup> <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304834704579401353579548592>

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;

WHEREAS, the proposed project may hinder the progress and reputation of Ramapo College if prospective and current students are concerned about the proximity to this dangerous pipeline that is at risk of leaking and spilling on or near campus and seek higher education elsewhere;

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline route is proposed to go through the New Jersey Highlands, a protected watershed area that as the region provides drinking water to 5.4 million, of half of New Jersey’s residents;

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline threatens critical habitat for the survival of multiple endangered species within the New Jersey Highlands region including the Bog Turtle, Wood Turtle, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night-heron, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Timber Rattlesnake, Blue-spotted Salamander, Bobcat, Indiana Bat, and the Grey Petaltail;

WHEREAS, many local residents, including the Ramapo College community, depend on ground water and public community water systems for water supply, and the Township of Mahwah sits completely within the Ramapo River Basin and Aquifer system, which is the sole source aquifer:

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

WHEREAS, protection of Mahwah’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 Ramapo College Student Government Association of Mahwah, in the County of Bergen, the following recitals are incorporated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

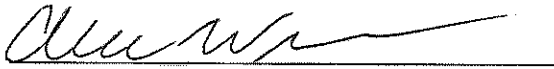
1- The Ramapo Student Government Association opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.

2 – The Association will forward copies of this resolution to the following:

1. NJ Governor Chris Christie
2. State Senators Corey Booker and Robert Menendez
3. State Assembly Rep. Holly Schepisi

4. State Assembly Rep. Robert Auth
5. State Senator Gerald Cardinale
6. New Jersey Highlands Executive Director Margaret Nordstrom and Councilmembers
7. Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
8. The Sierra Club – New Jersey Chapter, 145 W. Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08618
9. Mahwah Mayor and Town Council
10. The Bergen County Freeholders
11. Ramapo College President Dr. Peter Phillip Mercer
12. Ramapo College Board of Trustees

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_, SGA President



\_\_\_\_\_, SGA Vice President