

## A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PILGRIM PIPELINES

Sponsored by Alderperson(s) : Council President - Brian Stall

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC, is proposing to build two pipelines and/or related infrastructure and access roads through the City of Rensselaer that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the pipelines would carry oil from the Bakken Shale region of North Dakota extracted through a process that includes hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” a process that was not accepted or authorized by the State of New York and Governor Andrew Cuomo and this process has allegedly been found to contaminate clean water resources, create toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and release large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, said pipelines would pass near the historic district in the city of Rensselaer and more than half the speakers at a public hearing speaking against the pipeline were residents from the city of Rensselaer and the residents speaking against the pipeline outnumbered the residents speaking in favor of the pipeline by a measure of 21 to one; and

**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

**WHEREAS**, the Pipelines would carry a large volume of Bakken crude oil through residential and historic districts in the City of Rensselaer, which would place residents and tourists visiting the historic Fort Cralo in harm’s way should an explosion or spill occur; and

**WHEREAS**, according to PHMSA, pipeline operators reported 1,880 crude oil spills incidents nationwide between 2003 and 2013, or nearly one incident every other day, resulting in over 44,265,438 gallons of oil being spilled; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 percent of these incidents were the result of corrosion, equipment failure, incorrect operation or material and weld failures; and

**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

**WHEREAS**, any rupture or compromise of the pipelines, even without an explosion or fire, would require extraordinary cleanup efforts, could force residents from their homes, and place a large number of residents in close proximity to hazardous materials; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pilgrim pipelines also threaten important surface water resources, including **the Hudson River, which the pipelines are proposed to cross twice, and all of its major tributaries**; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rensselaer Common Council finds that the proposed Pilgrim pipelines potentially threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the community; could decrease the values of homes located along its route and in surrounding neighborhoods; and could negatively impact potential future development in the City of Rensselaer in Rensselaer County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Region Sustainability Plan calls for becoming less energy and fossil fuel intensive while strengthening the regional economy, expanding renewable energy generation exponentially across the Region, and improving the resilience of the energy delivery system; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Energy Plan sets clean energy targets of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, 50% of energy generation from renewable resources, and 600 trillion Btu increase in energy efficiency, all by 2030, an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and also provides a comprehensive roadmap for building a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rensselaer is adamant about promoting and supporting business in the city, such as the clean solar energy company Monolith Solar located within the city of Rensselaer; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of the Pilgrim pipelines, which will support and expand markets for fossil fuels, is directly contrary to these regional and statewide clean energy plans and goals;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **City of Rensselaer Common Council** of the **City of Rensselaer**:

1. Strongly opposes the construction of the proposed Pilgrim pipelines; and
2. Calls upon the New York State Thruway Authority, the New York State 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

3. Urges Governor Cuomo to reject construction of the Pilgrim pipelines in New York as inconsistent with the ambitious clean energy goals he has set for the State; and

4. Directs the City Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the NYS Thruway Authority Acting Executive Director Bill Finch, NYS DOT Commissioner Matt Driscoll, the Federal Highway Administration New York Division Administrator Peter Osborn; U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Paul Tonko and State Senator Neil Breslin, Assembly man John McDonald, Governor Andrew Cuomo, NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, County Executive Kathy Jimino and County Legislator Mike Stammel.

Approved as to form and sufficiency  
on July 20, 2016

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Corporation Counsel

Approved By:

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Mayor