

## BOROUGH OF ROSELLE



### RESOLUTION NUMBER 2014-468

#### THE BOROUGH OF ROSELLE TO OPPOSE THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Pipeline Company LLC (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline through the Borough of Roselle 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. Bringing this fuel into our community endangers our families, property, and environment.

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

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Roselle 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 Borough of Roselle 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;

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**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Roselle is qualified as an Environmental Justice Community, already impacted by 1.8 miles of Rails, Gas Pipelines, and overhead High Tension Electrical Transmission Lines along the proposed route; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project may result in a loss of tax revenue for the Borough of Roselle 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**, by the pipeline's traversing St. Georges Avenue's Areas of Redevelopment, planned and future projects will be inhibited and/or terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will impact groundwater quality and drainage paths for properties of residents along and adjacent to the right of way; and

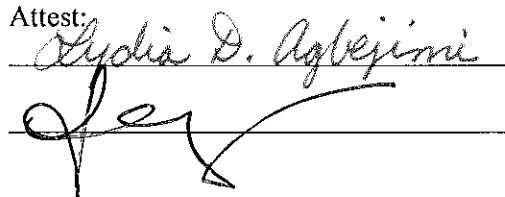
**WHEREAS**, protection of Roselle's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle 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 Borough of Roselle.
- C. Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the Borough, the Council requests a full environmental review, be conducted by the NJDEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.
- D. The Council directs the municipal clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following:
  - 1. NJ Governor Chris Christie
  - 2. NY Governor Andrew Cuomo
  - 3. US Senator Robert Menendez
  - 4. US Senator Cory Booker
  - 5. US Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.
  - 6. NJ State Senator Stephen Sweeney
  - 7. NJ State Assemblyman Vincent Prieto
  - 8. Union County Freeholders
  - 9. All Union County Municipal Councils

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Borough of Roselle in the County of Union and State of New Jersey this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.

Attest:

  
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Lydia D. Agbejimi, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Jamel C. Holley, Mayor of the Borough of Roselle