

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**RESOLUTION:** 2015-317

APRIL 16, 2015

VICE CHAIRMAN BERGEN, AND THE ENTIRE BOARD

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline (the “Pipeline”) through the County of Union that would transport crude oil, and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union understand the proposed Pipeline will carry oil extracted from North Dakota’s Bakken shale formation, produced 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**, the transport of crude oil has increased more than 4000 percent in North America over the past six (6) years as a result of the increased production of crude oil from the Bakken shale formation; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2014, *The Wall Street Journal* compared oil from eighty-six (86) locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the most explosive; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline project would expand capacity to bring more of this very volatile fuel into the State of New Jersey and the County of Union on a route that passes densely populated communities, environmentally sensitive areas, and preserved lands; and

**WHEREAS**, by bringing this hazardous material into the County of Union and transporting it through the County of Union’s communities, specifically the Boroughs of Fanwood, New Providence, and Roselle, the City of Linden, the Town of Westfield, and the Townships of Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, and Scotch Plains, the proposed Pipeline poses a potentially grave risk to the public health, safety, and welfare of the County of Union’s families, property, and its environmentally sensitive areas; and


**WHEREAS**, identical resolutions before New Jersey’s 216th Legislature (Assembly Resolution No. 191 and Senate Resolution No. 106) oppose the Pilgrim Pipeline and declare, “The Pilgrim Pipeline project raises significant safety concerns for the State of New Jersey including potential harm to municipal and county infrastructure, and would likely have a negative impact upon future development in the community”; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (“PHMSA”) only has 135 inspectors and 375 state partners 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union is concerned about the hazards the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the Pipeline, and by the Pipeline’s proposed route, which crosses several residential communities and environmentally sensitive areas in the County of Union that would be negatively impacted by the occurrence of an explosion, spill, or rupture; and

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No Sufficiency of Funds Required :  
 Approved as to Form:  
 Certifying as to an Original Resolution:  
 Certified as to a True Copy:

  
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✓ Vote Record - Resolution RES-2015-317		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Bruce H. Bergen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended	Angel G. Estrada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	Sergio Granados	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Christopher Hudak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Bette Jane Kowalski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Alexander Mirabella	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vernell Wright	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Linda Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mohamed S. Jalloh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**WHEREAS**, the potential for a Pipeline explosion, spill, or rupture along the proposed route could harm communities, the environment, and drinking water supplies, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union express grave concern that the project would negatively affect the health, safety, and welfare of the County of Union's residents and environment; and

**WHEREAS**, any rupture or compromise of the Pipeline, even without an explosion or fire, could force the resident of the County of Union from their homes, position them in close proximity to hazardous materials, and place an undue and unjust financial burden upon the County of Union to pay for the costs associated with the extraordinary cleanup efforts that would result from such an event; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Union seeks to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this Pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above, especially since the route being proposed is in close proximity to, *inter alia*, schools, parks, open space, recreation and preserved areas, medical and healthcare facilities, houses of worship, group homes, businesses, residences, areas in need of redevelopment, and first responder facilities, 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 County of Union 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, as well as those homes in the surrounding neighborhoods, as a direct result of the project; and

**WHEREAS**, this Pipeline project may impact groundwater quality and drainage paths for properties within the County of Union along and adjacent to the proposed right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, the wise stewardship of the natural resources of the County of Union and the State of New Jersey requires protection of water supplies and other natural resources for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, protection of the County of Union's water supply 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union encourages all County of Union municipalities that have not already done so, to enact legislation that strongly opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union seeks to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this Pilgrim Pipeline project raises serious safety concerns as described herein:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union as of April 16, 2015:

- A. That the aforesaid recitals are adopted and incorporated herein as if repeated in full.
- B. The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union strongly opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline project.
- C. The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union encourages all County municipalities that have not already done so, to enact legislation that strongly opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline project.
- D. The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, surveying, and construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline through the County of Union because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural resources within the County of Union and the State of New Jersey.
- E. Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural resources within the County of Union and the State of New Jersey, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union requests a full environmental review be conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline project.
- F. The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union requests that the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders forward certified copies of this Resolution to the following:
  1. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie
  2. United States Senator Robert Menendez
  3. United States Senator Cory Booker
  4. Congressman Leonard Lance
  5. Congressman Albino Sires
  6. Congressman Daniel Payne, Jr.
  7. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
  8. State Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto
  9. State Senate President Stephen Sweeney
  10. All County of Union Legislative Representatives
  11. All County of Union Municipalities
  12. New Jersey Association of Counties
  13. New Jersey League of Municipalities
  14. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection