

MODEL RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC, is proposing to build two pipelines and/or related infrastructure and access roads through the Village of Woodbury 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,” and this process has 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, data collected by the Capline Pipeline in Louisiana, which tested crude from 86 locations worldwide, indicates that crude oil from Bakken Shale has a far higher vapor pressure than crude from dozens of other locations, making it much more likely to release combustible gases; 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 Pipeline would carry a large volume of Bakken crude oil through residential areas in the Town of Woodbury, which would place residents 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 pipeline, 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, most Village of Woodbury residents depend on ground water and public community water systems for potable water supplies, the integrity and safety of which may be jeopardized by construction and operation of the pipelines; and

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim pipelines also threaten important surface water resources, including Woodbury Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Woodbury Board of Trustees 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 Village of Woodbury; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Hudson Regional 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, and also provides a comprehensive roadmap for building a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Pilgrim pipelines to 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 Village of Woodbury Board of Trustees:

1. 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
2. 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
3. Directs the Village Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the NYS Thruway Authority Executive Director Robert Megna, NYS DOT Commissioner Matt Driscoll, the Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator; U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator William Larkin, State Assemblyman James Skoufis, and NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos.