

**Prohibiting The Leasing Of Any County Owned Lands, Including But Not Limited To County Parks For High-Volume Slick-Water Hydraulic-Fracturing To Extract Natural Gas**

Legislators Zimet, Petit, Bernardo and Gregorious of the following:

WHEREAS, it is increasingly clear that drilling for natural gas using slick-water hydraulic-fracturing (hydrofracking) may have severe adverse impacts on communities and the environment, and

WHEREAS, the process of pumping chemicals under intense pressure into an underground shale formation to release gas for extraction may contaminate drinking water supplies, including the New York City system in the Catskills, and

WHEREAS, such activity would undoubtedly place added stress on species that may increasingly come under stress from the impacts of climate change, and

WHEREAS, past Governor David A. Paterson had issued Executive Order 41 - Requiring Further Environmental Review of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in the Marcellus Shale directing the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct further comprehensive review and analysis of high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale thereby requiring that high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing would not be permitted until July 1, 2011, at the earliest, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 41 does not include low volume vertical hydraulic fracturing which allows 16 wells for every single horizontal well, and utilizes similar toxic compounds to extract gases, and

WHEREAS, similar extraction practices in a township in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, contaminated the drinking water supply and subsequent litigation and a settlement of 4.1 million dollars was awarded to the residents, and

WHEREAS any economic boost to the state's economy from development and sale of natural gas from Marcellus Shale is short term at best, and will foreclose the long-term economic benefit to the county of tourism and agriculture, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature adopted Resolution 378 - County of Ulster Energy Policy on December 10, 2008, which included minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, that would be impossible to meet if natural gas drilling occurred on County-owned land, and

**Resolution No.      Draft      March 15, 2010**

**Prohibiting The Leasing Of Any County Owned Lands, Including But Not Limited To County Parks For High-Volume Slick-Water Hydraulic-Fracturing To Extract Natural Gas**

WHEREAS, improving and protecting the quality of life, Open Space and Waterways concluded that increased energy conservation and use of renewable energy are important ways to avert the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Ulster County will not lease any county-owned lands, including but not limited to County park lands, for high-volume, slick-water hydraulic-fracturing to extract natural gas, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senate Minority Leader John Sampson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Senator John Bonacic, Senator William Larkin, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Acting Commissioner Joseph Martens,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

0301