

CITY OF BRUNSWICK, OHIO
RESOLUTION NO. 4-13

BY: Committee-of-the-Whole

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ENACTMENTS BY THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, GRANTING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY BY ABROGATING ALL LOCAL CONTROL OVER WELL PERMITTING, WHICH JEOPARDIZES THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF OHIO AND REQUESTING THAT THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPEAL ANY AND ALL LAWS THAT PRE-EMPT LOCAL CONTROL OVER OIL AND NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION AND ASSOCIATED RISKY INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

- WHEREAS: There are clear and present dangers inherent in oil and natural gas extraction and related industrial activity;
- WHEREAS: According to government and peer-reviewed scientific studies, professional risk assessments, reports from first-hand observations and experiences, as well as credible news sources, environmental and human health impacts have resulted from documented spills, blowouts, leaking wells, and other environmental accidents resulting from the extraction of oil and natural gas;
- WHEREAS: The process of hydraulic fracturing requires, among other things, the use of thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals, threatening human health and the environment; the permanent removal of unsustainably large quantities of water from the natural water cycle, threatening the health of streams and lakes; and increased heavy tanker traffic on roadways, threatening toxic spills and infrastructure damage;
- WHEREAS: The process known as "deep injection" used to deposit brine/toxic frack waste under extreme pressure in wells several thousands of feet in the earth is considered the safest disposal method, yet has the potential to pollute water aquifers and trigger earthquake activity;
- WHEREAS: This Council recognizes that clean water and air are essential for the life, prosperity, sustainability and health of the community and that damage to water resources and air thereby causes tangible loss to health, property and life of individuals, communities and ecosystems;
- WHEREAS: Since 2005, the oil and natural gas industry has secured broad exemptions from six (6) key federal laws, such as the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act;

WHEREAS: In spite of considerable testimony in opposition, the Ohio General Assembly granted special privileges to the oil and natural gas industry by abrogating all local control over this industry, which jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS: This Council is charged with protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents, yet is pre-empted from acting to fulfill those official duties.

WHEREAS: THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1: This Council does hereby find that the Ohio General Assembly has enacted laws that allow an inherently disruptive and dangerous industry in rural and residential areas, to the detriment of the overall health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Brunswick.

SECTION 2: This Council opposes the enactments of the Ohio General Assembly, which granted special privileges to the oil and natural gas industry by abrogating all local control over well permitting, and calls upon the Governor and Ohio General Assembly to look to the interests of the greater community rather than the interests of a single industry by repealing any and all laws that pre-empt local control over oil and natural gas extraction and associated risky industrial activity; and, further, that the Ohio General Assembly begins anew, in an open, transparent process that provides the citizens of Ohio the protections they are guaranteed by their Constitution.

SECTION 3: That the Clerk of Council forward certified copies of this Resolution to Ohio Governor John Kasich, Ohio Senator Larry Obhof and Ohio Representative William Batchelder.

SECTION 4: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, and safety and for the additional reason that local control over oil and natural gas extraction is immediately necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio. Therefore, the same shall be in full force from and after its passage by the required number of votes or from the earliest time allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading January 28, 2013
2nd Reading February 11, 2013
3rd Reading February 25, 2013

ADOPTED: February 25, 2013

AYES 6 NAYS 1

ATTEST: Barbara J. Ortiz, CMC
Clerk of Council
Barbara J. Ortiz, CMC