



"Countryside Living"

# Chester Township

Founded 1801

12701 CHILLICOTHE ROAD CHESTERLAND, OHIO 44026

(440) 729-7058

FAX (440) 729-3679

**FISCAL OFFICER**  
Karen M.N. Austin, CPA

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Clay Lawrence  
Judith Caputo  
Michael J. Joyce

## RESOLUTION 2010 - 319

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO PLACE A MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS WELL DRILLING IN HEAVILY POPULATED RESIDENTIAL AREAS UNTIL AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO REVISED CODE WITH RESPECT TO DRILLING HAVE BEEN MADE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed House Bill 278, which gave the Division of Mineral Resources exclusive authority to regulate the permitting, location and spacing of oil and gas wells in the state, the authority to adopt oil and gas rules that constitute a comprehensive plan with respect to all aspects of the locating, drilling and operation of oil and gas wells in Ohio, and which repealed all statutory authority of local governments to regulate oil and gas exploration; and

WHEREAS, the Bill repealed all provisions of law that granted or alluded to the authority of local governments to adopt requirements concurrent with state law concerning oil and gas exploration and operation as well as all provisions limiting that authority. The Bill granted the Division of Mineral Resources Management sole and exclusive authority of regulating the permitting, location, and spacing of oil and gas wells within the State. Further, the Bill provided that the regulation of oil and gas activities was a matter of general statewide interest that requires uniform statewide regulation and that the Oil and gas Law and the rules adopted under it constituted a comprehensive plan with respect to all aspects of the locating, drilling, and operation of oil and gas wells within Ohio, including site restoration and disposal of wastes from those wells; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a proliferation of oil and gas well drilling in heavily populated residential areas; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas well drilling in heavily populated residential areas cause a host of problems including, but not limited to, extreme noise twenty-four hours a day during the drilling process, potential for well water contamination, and potential safety issues for surrounding residents if explosions occur; and

WHEREAS, there have been bills passed to amend the Ohio Revised Code with respect to oil and gas well drilling, which will restore local control, remove mandatory pooling, increase safety setbacks, protect the environment, demand disclosure and accountability and require financial and legal liability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chester Township Board of Trustees, Geauga County, Ohio that:

SECTION 1. The Chester Township Board of Trustees wishes to urge the State to place a moratorium on oil and gas well drilling in heavily populated residential areas until amendments to the Ohio Revised Code with respect to drilling have been made that restore local control, remove mandatory pooling, increase safety setback, protect the environment, demand disclosure and accountability, and require financial and legal liability.


SECTION 2. That the Fiscal Officer be, and hereby is, directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Strickland and the Ohio State Representatives and State Senators representing our area urging them to place a moratorium on oil and gas well drilling in heavily populated residential areas until amendments to the Ohio Revised Code with respect to drilling have been made, which restore local control, remove mandatory pooling, increase safety setbacks, protect the environment, demand disclosure and accountability, and require financial and legal liability. The Fiscal Officer is further authorized to forward a copy of this Resolution to all townships in Geauga County as an indication of this Board's urging other communities to pass similar legislation.

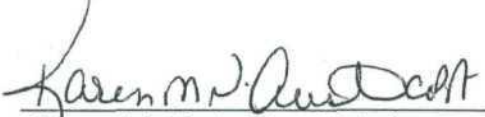
SECTION 3. It is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution was adopted in an open meeting of the Chester Township Board of Trustees, and that all deliberations of this Board were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22, Ohio Revised Code.

PASSED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010

  
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Michael J. Joyce  
Chairman

  
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Clay Lawrence  
Trustee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Caputo  
Vice-Chairwoman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen M. N. Austin, CPA  
Fiscal Officer