RESOLUTION #123-11
Resolution Calling for a Ban on Fracking

WHEREAS, the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas involves the use of chemicals and hazardous materials during construction, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, gas production and delivery, well maintenance, and workover operations; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing of underground geologic formations is often accomplished by injecting a complex mix of fluids and chemicals, including large volumes of water, on average 4.5 million gallons per well, under very high pressure to create fractures in gas bearing geologic formations; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have documented adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, there have been more than a 1,000 documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites; some people who live near these sites can now light their drinking water on fire; and

WHEREAS, wastewater from fracking can contain radioactive elements and has been discharged into rivers that supply drinking water for millions, according to the New York Times.

WHEREAS, use of these hydraulic fracturing mixes exposed adjacent land and surface waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage, truck transport on roadways, and activities during well development; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as part of the federal Energy Policy Act and over objections of health care, scientific, environmental, and conservation communities, regulation of hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency was exempted, thereby allowing oil and gas companies to use these substances without federal oversight or standards; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal law to publicly disclose chemical formulas of hydraulic fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly available for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, Former President George W. Bush’s EPA point person on water now admits fracking should never have been exempted from regulation, and

WHEREAS, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act (“FRAC Act”), which is currently pending in Congress, would repeal the fracking exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act and require disclosure of chemicals used in fracking; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of the Town of Clinton’s water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and
WHEREAS, protection of the Town of Clinton's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to cleaning up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 12th day of July, 2011, the Town of Clinton supports a statewide and national ban on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, banning the import and disposal of dangerous fracking waste in New Jersey and preventing our drinking water supplies from being depleted for fracking;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Clinton supports the FRAC Act;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Clinton will send a letter to our State Representatives, Congressional Representative and Senator Menendez calling for a ban on fracking and asking our federal representatives to join Senator Lautenberg, Congressman Pallone and Congressman Holt as co-sponsors the FRAC Act, H.R. 1084/ S. 587;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that hydraulic fracturing for natural gas is prohibited within the Town of Clinton

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that the Town of Clinton will not accept hydraulic fracturing fluids and/or other waste produced by natural gas drilling.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this 12th day of July, 2011.

[Signatures]

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC, Town Clerk

[Signatures]

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PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THIS SIGNED RESOLUTION TO:
1. Senator Michael J. Doherty
2. Assemblyman John DiMaio
3. Assemblyman Erik C. Peterson
4. Congressman Rush Holt
5. Congressman Leonard Lance
6. Senator Robert Menendez, One Gateway Center, Suite 1400, Newark NJ 07102
7. Senator Frank Lautenberg, One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102
8. Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 300 Pond Street, 2nd Floor, Bristol, PA 19007
9. Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901