

6/8/11 AGENDA NO. 25

BOROUGH OF CLOSTER
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR BAN ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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 Closter's water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Closter's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Closter 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 Borough of Closter supports the FRAC Act and encourages our federal representatives to cosponsor this legislation, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Christie, Assemblypersons Vandervalk and Schroeder, State Senator Cardinale, Representative Garrett, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez, Delaware Riverkeeper, Food and Water Watch, and the governing bodies of neighboring municipalities.

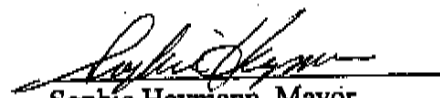
Councilperson	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Glidden			X			
Councilwoman Latner			X			
Councilman Kashwick	X		X			
Councilman Barad		X	X			
Councilman Dolson			X			
Councilwoman Amitai					X	

Adopted: June 8, 2011

ATTEST:


Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk

APPROVED:


Sophie Heymann, Mayor

Certified to be a true copy of Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter at the Regular Meeting held on June 8, 2011.

Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk