RESOLUTION #25-2014
MARCH 18, 2014

BY: THE ENTIRE COUNCIL

ENCOURAGING CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO HYDRO-FRACKING

WHEREAS, the wastewater that resurfaces from horizontal hydro-fracking operations and the brine that subsequently rises have been shown to have levels of bromine and radium hundreds of times that permitted by U.S. drinking water standards; and

WHEREAS, the brine has been shown to have concentrations of dissolved solids that may easily become toxic to aquatic life and damage water treatment equipment; and

WHEREAS, horizontal hydro-fracking in Marcellus shale may use three to eight million gallons of fresh water within a week, with 300,000 to 800,000 gallons of wastewater per well resurfacing during the following thirty days; and

WHEREAS, such wastewater and brine are already being transported through parts of Chautauqua County for disposal in disused vertically-drilled wells in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the current moratorium on horizontal hydro-fracking in New York State may be lifted in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, pollution of water supplies in Chautauqua County would endanger our drinking water and all agricultural production and related industries and all tourism dependent on lakes and streams; and

WHEREAS, such pollution has already developed elsewhere as a result of failures in the production, transport and/or disposal of the wastewater and brine in question; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Dunkirk Common Council expresses support for County action to prevent damage to the water table, lakes, streams, wildlife, agriculture, tourism and water purification plants in our county by enacting proactive regulations to limit the withdrawing of fresh water from lakes and streams and to prohibit throughout our county the transport, disposal, sale or processing of wastewater and brine from horizontally hydro-fracked gas wells; and, in addition, the Council is enacting a citywide ban from any activity that involves the process of hydraulic horizontal fracturing drilling.