

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 36

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA'S GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING BY OIL AND GAS COMPANIES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; TO HOLD A MORATORIUM AGAINST THESE ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS PRACTICES; AND TO SUPPORT A STATE INITIATIVE TO STUDY THE LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WELL-STIMULATION FRACKING.

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County ("Flagler County") that hydraulic fracturing by oil and gas companies as a means to extract natural gas from bedrock is environmentally unfriendly and an extremely hazardous practice for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Article X, Section 28(b)(1) of the Florida Constitution was amended in November 2014 through a ballot referendum by 75% of the voters of this State to read: "As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b);" and

WHEREAS, Section 377.371(1), Florida Statutes, states, "A person drilling for or producing oil, gas, or other petroleum products, or storing gas in a natural gas storage facility, may not pollute land or water; damage aquatic or marine life, wildlife, birds, or public or private property; or allow any extraneous matter to enter or damage any mineral or freshwater-bearing formation;" and

WHEREAS, Flagler County is equally concerned about the exponentially growing number of anthropogenic-linked seismic events, causing harm to persons and property; proliferated in states with long-term 'fracking' and advanced hydraulic well-drilling practices, and defined by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as "induced seismicity;" and

WHEREAS, Flagler County is equally concerned about the potential pollution of natural aquifers and underground water reservoirs throughout the hydraulic fracturing process with hazardous waste byproducts that include acetic chemicals, carcinogenic compounds, and naturally radioactive materials; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County opposes HB 1205 and any similar language found in legislation placing a prohibition on a moratorium against "fracking" in the State; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County opposes SB 1468 on the Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources providing for exemptions of information released to the public that may be considered “proprietary business information” or a “trade secret;” and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Board that the potential high-risk negative impact on the local and regional environment imposed by the process of mass hydraulic fracturing in the State of Florida is too perilous to allow these practices before the conclusion of a responsible scientific study and a potential moratorium by the people of this State.

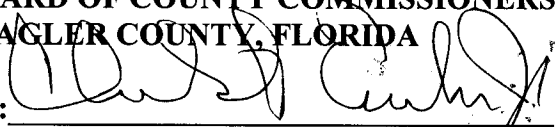
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County, Florida, that:

The County of Flagler opposes hydraulic fracturing or any other hazardous form of well-stimulation and urges Florida’s Governor and Legislature to provide for a responsible scientific study of the long term environmental consequences of these processes and to allow the people of Flagler County and citizens throughout the State to hold a moratorium on “fracking.”

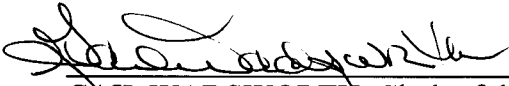
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, this 18th day of May, 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY:


FRANK J. MEEKER, Chairman
CHARLES ERICKSEN, JR. VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:


GAIL WADSWORTH, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Al Hadeed, County Attorney