

**Text of Resolution that passed the Garrettsville Council May 11 2011 with a vote of 6-0**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A MORATORIUM UPON CONDUCTING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PENDING THE ISSUANCE OF A REPORT THEREON BY THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

WHEREAS, The Village of Garrettsville recognizes that water is essential for life, prosperity, sustainability and health of the community; and

WHEREAS, The process known as "hydraulic fracturing" as an aid in the extraction of oil and gas from drilled wells has risks associated with the vertical and horizontal drilling technique to reach the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations under our state to release the natural gas sequestered in these deep shale deposits and bring it to the surface; and

WHEREAS, The fluid used in this process contains chemicals, the identity of which often remains unknown due to what is known as the "Halliburton Loophole"; and

WHEREAS, Broken and or cracked vertical well casings have been shown to release natural gas/ oil/ fracking fluid near the surface of the ground; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the spent fluid from this process is extracted from the wells and stored or disposed of in above-ground facilities; and

WHEREAS, All aspects of the process pose a risk of contamination of the ground water and aquifers that provide us with drinking water individually and collectively; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities have a legitimate interest in the protection of their aquifers and ground water sources; and

WHEREAS, the trucking in and out of mass quantities of water and fluids for this process poses significant risk of damage to municipal roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Legislature has vested complete authority over the permitting, location and spacing of oil and gas wells and production operations within the state in the Division of mineral resources management, leaving local governments with no discretion or regulatory control over oil and gas drilling within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the gas and oil industry has secured broad exemptions from Federal regulation under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act since 2005; and

WHEREAS, the extraction of natural gas by hydraulic fracturing poses a potential threat to the health, safety, and welfare of residents living near these operations; and

WHEREAS, the USEPA is currently conducting a study of the safety of hydraulic fracturing for drinking water, public health and the environment to be completed in 2012.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Village of Garrettsville, Ohio, calls on the Governor and the Ohio State Legislature to place a moratorium (or enact a ban) on hydraulic fracturing until an adequate environmental study is completed showing that hydraulic fracturing can be done safely and without impacting local water supplies within the State of Ohio, and until adequate mitigation regulations and facilities are in place to adequately protect Ohio's water supply and environment from such operations; and calls on the United States Congress to enact laws to eliminate the exemption of hydraulic fracturing from federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Clerk of the Village of Garrettsville is hereby authorized and directed to forward a duly attested copy of this Resolution to the Office of John Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate.

Passed in Council this 11th day of May, 2011

Craig L Moser  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Council President

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