

Introduced by the Human Services Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL BAN ON HYDRAULIC
FRACTURING FOR NATURAL GAS**

RESOLUTION #12-

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*; and

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, the pollution of water caused by fracking threatens the long term economic well being of communities, as businesses and consumers depend on clean drinking water; 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

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WHEREAS, the Bringing Reductions to Energy's Airborne Toxic Health Effects Act ("BREATHE Act"), which is currently pending in Congress would repeal the exception to the Clean Air Act for aggregation of emissions from oil and gas development sources; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of Ingham County's water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Ingham County'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; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners supports a statewide and national ban on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners supports the FRAC Act and BREATHE Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to Governor Rick Snyder, Ingham County Legislative Delegation, Congressional Representative and U.S. Senators calling for a ban on fracking and for them to co-sponsor the FRAC Act, H.R. 1084/ S. 587, and BREATHE Act, H.R. 1204.

HUMAN SERVICES: Yeas: Nolan, Tennis, Schor, McGrain

Nays: Vickers, Dougan **Absent:** None **Approved 5/14/12**