RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 76-2012 – Calling for a Ban on Fracking

*Motion by Mayor Wunder, seconded by Ms. Schriver and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 76-2012 as written below. AYES: Schriver, Wunder, McKee, Morrison ABSTAIN: Milkowski*

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION NO. 76-2012

Resolution Calling for a Ban on Fracking

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 the Township of Lebanon’s water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and
WHEREAS, protection of the Township of Lebanon’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;
WHEREAS, the Township of Lebanon 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.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Lebanon supports the FRAC Act and will send a copy of this Resolution to our State Representatives, Congressional Representative and Senator Menendez calling for a ban on fracking and asking our federal representatives to join Senator Lautenberg, Congressman Pallone and Congressman Holt as co-sponsors the FRAC Act, H.R. 1084/ S. 587.