

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 15-_____

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE BAN ON HORIZONTAL
OIL DRILLING AND HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, ACID FRACTURING,
AND WELL STIMULATION PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSES OF
EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS IN THE
STATE OF FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners is charged generally with safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners is dedicated to protecting and improving our most precious natural resources; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing is the process of pumping a fluid into or under the surface of the ground in order to create fractures in existing rock for the purpose of producing or recovering oil or gas; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, also known as well stimulation, may involve the use of hundreds of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic or could otherwise be harmful to human beings; and

WHEREAS, exposure to the chemicals used in well stimulation treatments may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health and safety and the environment; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the state's surface and ground water resources are intimately connected and support drinking water supplies, agriculture, industry, wildlife habitat and a thriving recreation based economy; and

WHEREAS, there have been more than a 1,000 documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites; and

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

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal law to publicly disclose chemical formulas of well stimulation and fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly unavailable for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing may involve the use of substantial amount of freshwater at a time when many Florida local governments are struggling with the impacts that water scarcity may have in the state in the near future; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing poses potential risks for contaminating the Floridan Aquifer, the source of drinking water for nearly 10 million Floridians; and

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

WHEREAS, protection of Florida's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;

WHEREAS, the prohibition of such practices will help protect the public health, safety and welfare of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

1. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support a statewide ban on the use of horizontal oil drilling, hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing and well stimulation treatments performed for the purposes of exploration or production of oil or natural gas in the State of Florida due to the potential harmful impacts on the environment and natural resources of Martin County.

2. The County Administrator is directed to send to the Governor of the State of Florida and each member of the County's legislative delegation a certified copy of this resolution to show the Board's support for a statewide ban on horizontal oil drilling, hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing and well stimulation performed for the purposes of exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the State of Florida.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2015.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF
CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

ED FIELDING, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM & LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

MICHAEL D. DURHAM
COUNTY ATTORNEY