

ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

RESOLUTION NO. 98

INTRODUCED BY: Miller, Porter, Davis, Paparella, Welsh, Sacco, Goodman, Gordon, Speciale

2ND BY: Ms. Speciale

RE: RESOLUTION DECLARING IT A POLICY OF ONEIDA COUNTY NOT TO ALLOW SHALE GAS EXTRACTION ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ANY POTENTIAL LONG TERM IMPACTS OF SHALE GAS EXTRACTION ARE IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED

WHEREAS, shale gas extraction are various technologies, including but not limited to horizontal drilling, vertical drilling and high volume hydraulic fracturing, that allow for the extraction of natural gas from areas of shale formation, including areas in the Central New York region, and

WHEREAS, shale gas extraction involves drilling deep wells and pumping large quantities of fluid mixed with sand and chemicals into underground shale to release the natural gas, and

WHEREAS, while there exists the potential for these technologies to have positive impacts, questions have been raised regarding the need for further study to evaluate any potential long term environmental and community impacts of shale gas extraction, particularly with respect to water and land use and management and the composition of the fluids used to fracture the shale, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has released an environmental study (Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement) on shale gas extraction and various interested parties have responded with comments and concerns, and further public comment is expected and the Board shall await the receipt of such further public comment, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Water Utility Council, while supporting the development of natural gas resources, has raised concerns about potential water quality impacts, including possible contamination of ground water and surface water during the shale gas extraction process, and has urged New York State to impose environmentally responsible safeguards to protect our water resources, the environment and public health, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has stated that the State needs to further address the cumulative and indirect impacts of shale gas extraction, needs to place greater emphasis on the potential health impacts that may be associated with shale gas extraction, and needs to provide further mitigation from potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the withdrawal of surface or ground water, and

WHEREAS, additional issues raised with respect to shale gas extraction include the potential financial burden on local taxpayers for monitoring and tracking water quality and flowback water, the cumulative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, the impacts on local roads from increased traffic and hauling of heavy machinery, the potential impact on the local landscape and the possible adverse impact on personal property rights, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to balance environmental and public health concerns with the desire for adequate energy resources and economic development, and to take appropriate measures to protect the long term viability of our natural resources, and

WHEREAS, until such time as any potential long term, cumulative and indirect environmental and public health impacts are adequately identified and addressed and appropriate mitigation measures are identified and put into place, it shall be the policy of Oneida County that no shale gas extraction will be permitted on property owned by the County of Oneida, now, therefore, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Legislators declares it a policy of Oneida County that the processes known and identified as shale gas extraction shall not be allowed on property owned by Oneida County until any and all potential environmental and public health impacts have been identified and addressed, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Oneida County Board of Legislators is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the New York State Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

APPROVED: Public Works Committee (April 8, 2013)
Ways & Means Committee (April 10, 2013)

DATED: April 10, 2013

Adopted on a roll call vote:

AYES 21 NAYS 5 (Brennan, Waterman, Joseph, Mandryck, Wood) ABSENT 3 (Porter, Flisnik, Trevisani)