POPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 03

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A STATE MORATORIUM ON HIGH-VOLUME HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

WHEREAS, the process of high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing is a relatively new method of extracting oil or natural gas from underground formations;

WHEREAS, the current laws of Illinois may be inadequate to protect the health and safety of the residents of Pope County and its environment from the risks of serious adverse effects associated with high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing, including air pollution, soil contamination, and contamination of water supplies;

WHEREAS, high-volume hydraulic fracturing has been exempted from key provisions of major federal environmental laws, including the Clean Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Superfund Law, and the Toxic Release Inventory and has also been exempted from provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act; and

WHEREAS, the procedure known as forced pooling can create inequitable intrusions on the rights of property owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Pope County expresses its support for legislation by the Illinois General Assembly to enact a moratorium on high-volume horizontal fracturing until such time as the process can be studied and the health and safety and property rights of the residents of Pope County and the State of Illinois can be ensured and the environment protected. Specifically, Pope County expresses its support for bills pending in the 98th
General Assembly, currently designated as House Bill 3086 and Senate Bill 1418, that would establish a two-year moratorium and create a Task Force to report to the legislature.

**SECTION 2:** This resolution shall be sent to Illinois State officials, including the State Senators and Representatives who represent our County, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Illinois Governor and Lt. Governor, the Illinois Attorney General, and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

**SECTION 3:** That the County Clerk for the County of Pope is hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary, reasonable, or proper to carry out the intents and purposes of this Resolution.

**SECTION 4:** This resolution shall be included in the minutes of the Pope County Board of Commissioners and shall be identified as Resolution No. 2013 - 03

Passed this 26th day of March 2013.

Larry Richards
County Board Chairman

ATTEST: Connie S. Gibbs, County Clerk
March 27, 2013

POPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
P.O. Box 216
Golconda, IL 62938
618-683-4466

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We, the undersigned Commissioners of Pope County, are concerned about the potential adverse effects of a new oil and gas production method called high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or horizontal fracking, which is being introduced in Illinois. We ask you to support a moratorium and prompt further study of this practice before it becomes widespread in our state.

Experience in other states shows that horizontal fracking contaminates air, land, and particularly, drinking water. The process is inherently dangerous because it brings large quantities of toxic chemicals into proximity with drinking water aquifers, it converts millions of gallons of fresh water into hazardous waste, it displaces wildlife, and it lacks a safe and permanent waste storage solution. It also threatens farmland and animals, reduces property values, releases harmful air pollution, exacerbates climate change, increases the risk of explosions, and may increase the frequency of earthquakes, among other impacts. It is especially risky in Southern Illinois, where we are overdue for a major earthquake.

Because horizontal fracking has been and still is exempt from many key federal environmental provisions and the method has not been studied adequately, common sense dictates that horizontal fracking must not proceed in our state at this time.

Illinois needs a moratorium on horizontal fracking. The moratorium should take effect immediately and continue until the health and safety of residents the safety of their property is ensured.

Sincerely,