WHEREAS, natural gas development is proposed within the Delaware River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River is designated as a Wild and Scenic River of federally recognized outstanding resources, natural assets, and exceptional water quality; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River supplies drinking water to over 15 million people, many of them downstream of the Marcellus Shale fairway in the Upper and Middle Delaware River Watershed, including approximately 3 million people in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River is the lifeblood of the communities along the River, is essential for commerce, tourism and recreation— and once contaminated will negatively impact those communities and those uses and can be very costly or impossible to remediate and can take a very long time; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has designated the non-tidal River - the entire 197 mile River from Hancock, New York to Trenton, New Jersey - as Special Protection Waters due to the exceptional water quality and "exceptionally high scenic, recreational, ecological, and/or water supply values" of the River; and

WHEREAS, these special waters and ecosystems must be maintained as per the DRBC Water Code, so that there be "no measurable change in existing water quality except towards natural conditions", requiring protection from avoidable water quality degradation; and

WHEREAS, degradation of these waters would be illegal and would impose significant hardships, public health detriment, and economic harm if degraded; and

WHEREAS, the natural gas development process 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, billions of gallons of fresh water will be depleted by hydraulic fracturing (the water is not returned to the source and is classified as a consumptive loss) and at least 200,000 acres of land are already leased for gas development, and that tens of thousands of wells are expected to be drilled in the Upper and Middle Delaware River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have documented adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, use of these hydraulic fracturing mixes exposes 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 remains one of the only industries that is allowed to inject such known chemical constituents directly into or adjacent to underground drinking water supplies without federal oversight; 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is studying the practice of hydraulic fracturing, yet by the end of 2015 the agency is planning to use chemical additives in drilling and to use hydraulic fracturing in developing these wells and exploratory wells that have been drilled have used chemical additives in drilling; and

WHEREAS, natural gas development will fragment forests in the Upper and Middle Delaware River Watershed, which is 89% forested, and convert naturally vegetated land to impervious cover and industrial conditions, increasing storm water runoff and pollution, flooding, sedimentation, and erosion to the tributaries and the mainstream River and will emit air pollution during constructing, drilling, extraction, and production of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission is seeking funding to complete a cumulative impact analysis of natural gas development on the water resources of the Delaware River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission is seeking funding to complete a cumulative impact analysis of natural gas development on the water resources of the Delaware River Basin; and
WHEREAS, the US Environmental Protection Agency is studying the practice of hydraulic fracturing and the study will be completed in 2012 and, if it is recommended by the study that hydraulic fracturing should be subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act, that the federal oversight of hydraulic fracturing would not be unduly burdensome on industry or the economy; and

WHEREAS, protection of New Jersey’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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Readington supports strong regulation by the DRBC to prevent pollution and avoid degradation of the water resources and ecosystems of the Delaware River Watershed; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Readington supports a New Jersey statewide ban on natural gas development involving hydraulic fracturing; and calls on our Congressional Representative and Senator Menendez to join Senator Lautenberg, Congressman Pallone and Congressman Holt in co-sponsoring H.R. 1084/ S. 587, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act (“FRAC Act”) a bill that would repeal the fracking exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act and require disclosure of chemicals used in fracking. This resolution shall also be distributed to:

1. Senator Michael Doherty
2. State Assemblyman John DeMaio
3. State Assemblyman Eric J. Peterson
4. Congressman Leonard Lance
5. Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 300 Pond Street, 2nd Floor, Bristol, PA 19007
6. Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
7. All Hunterdon County Municipalities

CERTIFICATION

I, VITA MEKOVETZ, Clerk of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 6th of September, 2011.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of this Township this 7th of September, 2010.

[Signature]
Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/RPPO
Municipal Clerk
RESOLUTION OF THE READINGTOWN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGARDING THE TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPELINE COMPANY’S LEIDY SOUTHEAST EXPANSION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company is proposing to expand their natural gas pipeline infrastructure through Branchburg, Clinton, Montgomery, Princeton and Readington by adding a pipeline of 42 inch diameter, the Pleasant Run and Skillman Loops, to their existing pipelines; and

WHEREAS, Williams Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company is proposing to expand the width of the right of way to accommodate the new pipeline by taking land and also using additional land as temporary construction and staging area; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee is concerned that some of the existing pipelines are over fifty years old and damage to them may occur as the new pipeline is installed next to and in some portions, underneath, the existing lines and heavy construction machinery will be used in close proximity to the existing lines. Heavy equipment will also be in close proximity to homes, foundations due to the constraints of available work space. Temporary work space usage will also severely impact the existing soil reducing water absorption and may increase future flooding possibilities; and

WHEREAS, the potential for a pipeline explosion could harm hundreds of people, we express grave concerns about the safety of this project in its proposed form and demand assurances that the project will be protective of the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Committee's responsibility is to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project may result in a loss of tax revenue for Readington Township based on right-of-way agreements with Transco and a decline in the property values of homes along and adjacent to the new pipeline and surrounding neighborhoods as a direct result of the project; and

WHEREAS, consumer demand must be proven and environmental, public safety, and homeowner impacts resulting from the project must be studied before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission grants Transco a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; and

WHEREAS, many township residents depend on ground water for water supply, and septic systems for waste disposal and this project will impact groundwater quality and quantity and the septic fields of residents along and adjacent to the right of way; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, in Hunterdon County the following recitals are incorporated as of May 20, 2013

1. The Committee has grave concerns regarding the proposed Leidy Southeast Expansion Project Pleasant Run Loop expansion of Transco's pipeline within Readington Township.

2. Because of the significance of the impacts of a project of this size, the Committee calls on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to hold a minimum of one scoping hearing per loop in New Jersey, preferably two.

3. In order to insure adequate and productive communication between the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company and all stakeholders that will be effected by the proposed construction of the Pleasant Run Loop through Readington Township, the Readington Township Committee respectively requests that the Company hold at least one, and possibly two, additional public meetings in which public discussion which will include a question and answer session that takes place in a public meeting structure. By that it is meant that both Company representatives and all attendees will be able to hear individual questions asked and answered in a public forum.

4. The Readington Township Committee respectively requests that the meetings above be advertised by the Company at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meetings by individual direct mail to each of the effected landowners and stakeholders. In addition the Committee requests that all available information including maps and published handouts regarding to proposed project be made available for inspection to all attendees at these meetings, and that the meetings be held in a convenient location in Readington Township and are scheduled as soon as is practical for the Company.

5. The Readington Township Committee also requests information prior to the proposed scoping meetings, to review beforehand, from Transco regarding the proposed compensation to effected landowners. The Committee would also ask for information regarding the effect of the proposed project on property values, tax revenues and the quality of life for Readington residents.

This resolution shall also be distributed to:
1. Senator Christopher (Kip) Bateman
2. State Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli
3. State Assemblywoman Donna Simon
4. Congressman Leonard Lance
6. Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
7. New Jersey Sierra Club, 145 Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 08618
8. The Municipalities of Branchburg, Clinton Township, Princeton and Montgomery.

CERTIFICATION

I, VITA MEKOVETZ, Clerk of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 20th day of May, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of this Township this 21st day of May, 2013.

Vita Mekovetz, RMC/MMC/QPA
Municipal Clerk