

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED ANALYSIS AND REGULATION OF 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, certain chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have raised concerns regarding adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, there have been over 1,000 documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites; including drinking water that can be lit on fire; and

WHEREAS, the pollution of water caused by fracking poses potential threats to long term well being of communities, as residents, businesses, and consumers depend on clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as part of the federal Energy Policy Act and over the objections of health care, scientific, environmental, and conservation communities, regulation of hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Safe Water Drinking Act by the Environmental Protection Agency was exempted, thereby allowing oil and gas companies to use these substances without federal oversight 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, 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 Bringing Reductions to Energy Airborne Toxic Health Effects Act (“BREATHE Act”), which is currently pending in Congress, would repeal the exemption to the Clean Air Act for aggregation of emissions from oil and gas development sources; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of our city, region, and state’s water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of water resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restore degraded environments after the fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Southfield, Michigan supports the passage of the federal legislation previously outlined, and further encourages in depth research and analysis with regard to the potential negative effects of fracking to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to the environment and that the development of appropriate regulations be determined to be a top policy priority for all levels of government within the United States.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Sander Levin, Governor Rick Snyder, State Senator Vincent Gregory, State Representative Rudy Hobbs, County Commissioner Janet Jackson, County Commissioner Nancy Quarles, County Commissioner Helaine Zack, Sierra Club, Michigan Municipal League and Oakland County communities.