

RESOLUTION 2015- 259

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE BAN ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND ACID FRACTURING AND WELL STIMULATION TREATMENTS PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Florida's water supply comes from highly permeable limestone formations which are vulnerable to contamination from hydraulic and acid rock-fracturing activities designed to extract hydrocarbons; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County gets all of its water from groundwater sources, including the Floridan Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic and acid fracturing or well stimulation is the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks, boreholes, etc., so as to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas; and

WHEREAS, Florida's oil and gas regulations, Chapter 377, Florida Statutes, and Rules 62C-25 through 30, Florida Administrative Code, make no reference to hydraulic or acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic or acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments pose potential risks for contaminating the Floridan Aquifer, the source of drinking water for nearly 10 million Floridians; and

WHEREAS, acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments may involve the use of hundreds of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic or could otherwise be harmful to human health; and

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

WHEREAS, hydraulic and acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments may involve the use of substantial amounts of freshwater at a time when many Florida municipalities are struggling with the impacts that water scarcity may have in the state in the near future; 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 restore degraded environments after the fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution and such recitals are adopted as findings of fact.

Section 2. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners supports a statewide ban on the use of 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 St. Johns County.

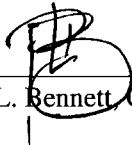
Section 3. That the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners will send a letter to the Florida Legislature and the Governor of the State of Florida showing its support for a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing and well stimulation performed for the purposes of exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the State of Florida.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 1st day of September, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:



Priscilla L. Bennett Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court

By: 

Deputy Clerk

Effective Date: 9/1/2015

RENDITION DATE 9/3/2015