OPPOSITION TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OR FRACKING IN NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION

STOKES COUNTY

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” is a method of extracting natural gas that involves injecting, at an extremely high pressure, a mixture of water, sand, and industrial chemicals to break up shale or other rock formations in order to reach pockets of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina does not currently allow either horizontal drilling or hydraulic fracturing, and the current North Carolina study of in-state shale gas resources and of the potential impacts of reversing this ban and allowing drilling and fracking to extract these resources is being undertaken without adequate funding and with insufficient time; and

WHEREAS, millions of gallons of freshwater are used to drill and to hydraulically fracture each shale gas well, and such development would exacerbate water shortages that have stemmed from North Carolina’s recent droughts; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the citizens of Stokes County rely on private water wells supplied from groundwater; and

WHEREAS, drilling and fracking for shale gas could bring a significant increase in heavy-duty truck traffic, causing traffic congestion and accelerated road damage in and around Stokes County; and

WHEREAS, disposal of hydraulic fracturing wastewater by high pressure underground injection can potentially cause seismic activity; and

WHEREAS, tourism is an economic engine in Stokes County with the Dan River and its tributaries and “fracking” could have an adverse effect to this very sensitive natural resource in Stokes County; and

WHEREAS, the Dan River Basin in Stokes County has been identified as having geologic shales that contain underground deposits of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, there are many unanswered questions on how “fracking” could negatively impact the specific geological formations located in Stokes County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners urge the North Carolina General Assembly to take no action and pass no legislation that would legalize hydraulic fracturing or horizontal drilling in North Carolina before it is fully demonstrated that North Carolina public health, waters, land, air, economy, and quality of life can be fully protected from the impacts of allowing shale gas development in the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this adopted resolution be sent to the leadership of the North Carolina General Assembly and the Stokes County Legislative Delegation.
Adopted this 11th day of June, 2012.

Ernest Lankford, Chairman

Jimmy Walker, Commissioner

James D. Booth, Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman, Vice Chairman

Ronda Jones, Commissioner