RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTION ON OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Waterford Township is blessed with beautiful lakes, ponds, streams and other wetlands which are vital to the environmental health of our community; and

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

WHEREAS, the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas involves the use of chemicals and hazardous materials both at the surface and for injection through gas production wells into 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, 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, Waterford Township, being a ground-water-supplied community relies on clean aquifers as its sole source of drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act ("FRAC Act"), would repeal the fracking exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act and require disclosure of chemicals used in fracking;

WHEREAS, the Bringing Reductions to Energy Airborne Toxic Health Effect Act ("BREATHE Act"), would repeal the exemption to the Clean Air Act for aggregation of emissions from oil and gas development sources; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies are currently reviewing their policies and permitting procedures in response to a draft EPA analysis reporting the probable contamination of drinking water wells by oil and gas hydraulic fracturing activities near Pavillion, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, protection of Waterford Township’s 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

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

WHEREAS, Waterford Township supports increased national and state legislation and regulation of the oil and gas industry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 23 day of July 2012, Waterford Township supports passage of the federal legislation previously outlined and promulgation by federal agencies (EPA, BLM, etc.) of recommended administrative rule changes governing the permitting of oil and gas production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Waterford Township forward a copy of this resolution to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, The Environmental Protection Agency, The Bureau of Land Management, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, and Waterford Township’s representatives, both in Washington D.C. and in the Michigan Legislature.

Yeas:  Solden, Vlaeminck, Birch, Bartolotta, Kramer, and O’Shea
Nays:  None
Absent:  Maloney

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I, Kari Vlaeminck, Clerk of the Charter Township of Waterford, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Waterford at the meeting held on this 23rd day of July, 2012

Kari Vlaeminck
Waterford Township Clerk