

Council Member Calsolaro introduced the following:

Resolution Number 92.111.13R(As amended prior to introduction)

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL URGING GOVERNOR CUOMO TO ADVANCE A RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMY IN NEW YORK STATE

WHEREAS, New York State has historically led the nation in matters of advancing social progress, including the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, civil rights and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence shows that the heavy industrial process of unconventional gas extraction by hydraulic fracturing poses serious risk of water contamination, air pollution, and health impacts; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Medical Society, representing 30,000 medical experts, the American Academy of Pediatrics of New York, the American Lung Association of New York and many independent medical experts and scientists have called on Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State legislature to continue New York's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and to conduct further health studies including a comprehensive health impact assessment; and

***WHEREAS**, in addition to emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases associated with gas development activities, hydraulic fracturing could effectively create an additional unfunded state mandate – as has been raised by the New York State Association of Counties - by imposing costs and strains on municipalities such as road damage and increased demands on municipal services, etc; and*

WHEREAS, New York communities have been significantly affected by the impacts of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy as well as lesser storms including Tropical Storm Lee, extreme weather events that are connected to/exacerbated by climate change due to increases in heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, costing New Yorkers tens of billions of dollars in damages and lost business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, significant action is necessary to address climate change, action which the federal government has to date failed to take, including energy conservation and advancing a clean energy infrastructure and making a significant economic transition to renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency present the opportunity to create a significant number of jobs for New Yorkers and for New York State to lead the nation on a visionary energy policy that will protect our water, air, land and public health while developing climate solutions; and

***WHEREAS**, New York State currently derives approximately 18.6 percent of its electrical power from renewable hydroelectric energy sources including local hydro power facilities in Vischers Ferry, Cohoes, and Green Island; and*

WHEREAS, New York State has developed approximately 4 percent of its electrical power from renewable sources other than hydro power to include wind power, solar power and bio-mass power; and

WHEREAS, New York State has developed a wind power capacity of approximately 1700 mega watts with additional capacity under construction or proposed; and

WHEREAS, New York State has in recent years invested approximately \$250 million throughout the state for heating efficiency in state government buildings, municipal buildings, and school buildings; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo's Administration has already demonstrated significant leadership on innovative clean energy programs including the investment of \$1.5 billion in New York Sun, opening 360 electric vehicle charging stations that will be available for both public and county fleet vehicles, establishing the successful Regional Economic Development Councils,; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany will work with Governor Cuomo and New York State Agencies as is most effective to implement existing renewable energy and efficiency programs as well as to partner on economic development initiatives including the New York State Regional Economic Development Councils as vehicles to catalyze investment and jobs programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Albany urges Governor Cuomo and the New York State agencies which he leads to take swift action in developing and adopting an economic development plan that will significantly reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions as well as rapidly create and deploy renewable energy and energy efficiency programs throughout municipalities in New York State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Albany stands ready to work with the Governor to achieve these goals that will in the process create safe, sustainable jobs for New Yorkers and pioneer the path forward for the nation to solve the climate crisis and provide real, clean solutions for generations to come.

To: Nala Woodard, City Clerk
From: Dominick Calsolaro, Council Member
Re: Request for Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum
Date: October 21, 2013

RESOLUTION NUMBER 92.111.13R

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL URGING GOVERNOR CUOMO TO CONTINUE THE MORATORIUM ON HIGH-VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND TO ADVANCE A RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMY IN NEW YORK STATE

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION: To officially express the opinion of the Common Council.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW: As explained in resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.