

Resolution to Continue the Moratorium on High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing and 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, the process of gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing is an inherently unsafe practice that threatens to poison our water, air and land and that chemicals used in this industrial process will create significant health impacts, illness, and cancer for generations to come; and

Whereas, the New York State Medical Society, representing 30,000 physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics of New York, and the American Lung Association of New York have called on Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State legislature to conduct further health studies including a comprehensive health impact assessment and enact a moratorium; and

Whereas, high-volume hydraulic fracturing threatens to negatively impact property values, disrupt the municipal tax-base, may adversely affect municipalities' ability to comply with the state-mandated property tax cap, and will effectively create an additional unfunded state mandate by imposing costs associated with road damage, increased demands on municipal services, etc.; and

Where, research on the economic and social impacts of hydraulic fracturing demonstrate the industry is associated with increased violent crime rates, increased violence against women, increased in drug use, increased hazards for first responders, disruption of community cohesion, as well as influx of out-of-state workers that disrupt existing businesses, economies, and local community character, and

Whereas, in addition to emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases associated with gas development activities, gas development releases methane in the atmosphere, which is 105 more powerful in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide on a 20-year timescale, thereby accelerating climate change, and whereas, substantial methane leakages are recognized by the gas industry, including the well casing rate of 5% failure rates immediately and 50% over the course of 30 years (ADD Footnote); 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, and these storms are connected to climate change caused by increases in heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. And that Hurricane Sandy alone cost New York taxpayers \$20 billion in property damage and between \$20-30 billion in lost business opportunities, which means losses of existing businesses due to closure (ADD Footnote) and whereas, these kinds of severe weather events are expected to continue and increase in size, scale and ferocity as climate disruption continues (ADD Footnote); and

Whereas, the recent account by the Mauna Loa Observatory of atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide reaching 400 parts per million has profound implications, and whereas, without a concerted government and industry to address climate change, human civilization will soon pass the point of being able to

reverse the acceleration of climate disruption and to avoid potentially catastrophic impacts for ourselves and future generations; and

Whereas, the federal government has to date failed to demonstrate the necessary leadership on climate change and to advance an achievable science-based energy plan to transition the United States energy infrastructure and economy to clean, renewable sources, and have instead continued to advance oil & gas industry plans to extract fossil fuels with more extreme and dangerous methods, including fracking, as conventional oil & gas reserves have peaked and are rapidly depleting (ADD Footnote Deborah Rogers); and

Whereas, local employment opportunities for our young people are at an all-time low, that insufficient jobs exist to keep our young people in the communities in which they were raised, and our young people need sustainable, safe jobs and careers in growth industries that will create jobs for decades to come; and

Whereas, renewable energy and energy efficiency present the opportunity to create millions 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 and take a leadership role on developing climate solutions through the rapid deployment of safe, clean energy technology including solar, wind, hydro and geothermal; and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo's Administration has already demonstrated significant leadership on solution-based programs including the investment of \$1.5 billion in New York Sun, opening 360 electric vehicle charging stations will be available for both public and county fleet vehicle use and upgrading the public fleet as part of Charge NY, establishing the successful Regional Economic Development Councils, and creating the innovative Start-Up NY; and

Whereas, the Town/Village/City of _____ will partner and work with Governor Cuomo and New York State Agencies on implementing all existing renewable energy and efficiency programs as well as partner on economic development initiatives including the New York State Regional Economic Development Councils and the Start-Up NY as vehicles to catalyze investment and jobs programs;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Town/Village/City of _____ 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 that the Town/Village/City of _____ stands ready to work with the Governor to achieve these goals that will in the process create millions of 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.