(c)

9/29/14 cc: Admin Plan

Township of Montville

BUSINESS OFFICES:
Municipal Building
195 Changebridge Road
Montville, New Jersey 07045-9498
(973) 331-3300 • Fax: (973) 402-0787

POLICE DEPARTMENT:
Public Safety Building
360 Route 202
Montville, New Jersey 07045-8697
(973) 257-4300 • Fax: (973) 334-4880

Donald Kostka
Mayor

Scott Gallopo
Deputy Mayor

Deb Nielson
Committeewoman

Jim Sandham
Committeeman

Richard D. Conklin
Committeeman

September 25, 2014

RECEIVED
SEP 29 2014
Mount Olive Township Clerk's Office

Honorable Chris Christie
Governor, State of New Jersey
Office of Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Pilgrim Pipeline

Dear Governor Christie:

At their meeting of September 23, 2014, the Montville Township Committee adopted a resolution opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline. Enclosed please find a copy of the resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Gertrude H. Atkinson

Gertrude H. Atkinson
Township Clerk

MTC:gha
Enclosure

c: Senator Joe Pennacchio (via e-mail)
Assemblyman Jay Webber (via e-mail)
Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce (via e-mail)
Food and Water Watch
The Sierra Club
Morris County Municipalities
Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders

TOWNSHIP OF MONTVILLE

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company ("Pilgrim") is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline though the Township of Montville that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, The pipeline will carry oil extracted from North Dakota's Bakken shale through the process of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. an extreme method of oil and gas extraction that depletes and despoils clean water resources, creates toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and contributes to the climate change crisis by releasing large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, In February the *Wall Street Journal* compared oil from 86 locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the most explosive.[1] Bringing this fuel into our community endangers our families, property, and environment; and

WHEREAS, The Pilgrim pipeline raises significant safety concerns for the Township of Montville, as well as potential harm to municipal and county infrastructure, and likely negative impact upon future development in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Montville is concerned that heavy construction equipment will also be in close proximity to homes and foundations due to the constraints of available workspace. Temporary workspace usage will also severely impact the existing soil reducing water absorption and may increase future flooding possibilities;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Montville is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the pipeline, and its proposed route, which crosses through residential neighborhoods. These communities will be in the "impact radius" should an explosion and or spill occur; and

WHEREAS, According to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the potential for a pipeline explosion could harm hundreds of people, we express grave concerns about this project negatively affecting the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee's responsibility is to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project may result in a loss of tax revenue for the Township of Montville based on right-of-way agreements with Pilgrim Pipeline and a decline in the property values of homes along and adjacent to the new pipeline and surrounding neighborhoods as a direct result of the project; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature recognized the significance of the New Jersey Highlands region and afforded special protection to the region and its resources in 2004 with the passage of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. The Act created the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council and the Highlands Regional Master Plan to ensure resource based planning would be

[1] http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304834704579401353579548592

used in the Highlands to combat sprawl and the depletion of water quality and quantity as the region provides drinking water to 5.4 million state residents; and

WHEREAS, the federal government acknowledged the exceptional value of Highlands resources and the urgent need for their preservation in 2004 when Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act which "recognize[s] the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources of the Highlands region, and the national significance of the Highlands region to the United States."; and

WHEREAS, many township residents depend on ground water and public community water systems for water supply, and septic systems for waste disposal and this project will impact groundwater quality and quantity and the septic fields of residents along and adjacent to the right of way; and

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

WHEREAS, protection of the Township of Montville'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;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Montville, in the County of Morris, the following recitals are incorporated as of September 21, 2014:

1- The Township Committee opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.

2- The Township Committee calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim pipeline through the Township of Montville.

3- Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the municipality and the Highlands region, the Council requests a full environmental review, including a Highlands Act review, be conducted by the DEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.

4 – The Township Committee directs the municipal clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following:

1. NJ Governor Chris Christie
2. State Senator Joe Pennacchio
3. State Assemblyman Jay Webber
4. State Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce
5. Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
6. The Sierra Club – New Jersey Chapter, 145 W. Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08618
7. All Morris County Municipalities
8. The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders

ATTEST:

Gertrude H. Atkinson, Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF MONTVILLE

Donald Kostka, Mayor

Adopted: September 23, 2014