

February 2, 2010

Motion Made By Mr. Corbett

RESOLUTION NO. _____

DECLARING THE POLICY OF THIS ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE NOT TO ALLOW
HYDROFRACKING ON PROPERTY OWNED BY ONONDAGA COUNTY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
POTENTIAL IMPACTS ARE IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED

WHEREAS, horizontal drilling and high volume hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking) are technologies that allow for the extraction of natural gas from areas of shale formation, including the Central New York region; and

WHEREAS, hydrofracking involves drilling deep wells and pumping large quantities of fluid mixed with sand and chemicals into the underground shale to release the natural gas; and

WHEREAS, while there is potential for these technologies to have positive economic impacts, questions have been raised regarding the need for further study to evaluate the potential long term environmental and community impacts of hydrofracking, particularly with respect to water use and management and the composition of the fluids used to fracture the shale; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has released an environmental study (Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement) on hydrofracking, and various interested parties have responded with comments and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Water Utility Council, while supporting the development of natural gas resources, has raised concerns about potential water quality impacts, including potential contamination of groundwater and surface water during the hydraulic fracturing process, and has urged New York State to impose environmentally responsible safeguards to protect our water resources, the environment and public health; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that the State needs to further address the cumulative and indirect impacts of hydrofracking, needs to place greater emphasis on the potential health impacts that may be associated with hydrofracking, and needs to provide for further mitigation of potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the withdrawal of surface or ground water; and

WHEREAS, additional issues raised with respect to hydrofracking include the potential financial burden on the taxpayers for monitoring and tracking water quality and flowback water, the cumulative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, the impacts on local roads from increased traffic and use of heavy machinery, the potential impact on the local landscape, and the possible adverse impact upon personal property rights; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to balance environmental and public health concerns with the desire for adequate energy resources and economic development, and to take appropriate measures to protect the long term viability of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, until such time as the potential long term, cumulative and indirect environmental and public health impacts are adequately addressed and appropriate mitigation measures are identified, it

is the desire of this Legislature that no hydrofracking be permitted on county owned property; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Legislature hereby declares as its policy that hydrofracking shall not be allowed on property owned by Onondaga County until potential impacts are identified and addressed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this Legislature hereby is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the New York State Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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