

RESOLUTION -Town of Highland

WHEREAS, The Delaware River Basin Commission is charged with overseeing a unified approach to managing the Delaware River system without regard to political boundaries by protecting the water quality, allocating water supply, and permitting industrial activities that could affect water quality;

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland lies within the Delaware River Basin and has an interest in the continued exceptional water quality of the Delaware River and its tributaries and the banning of industrial activities that would affect the quality of the Delaware River's water;

WHEREAS, the Wild and Scenic Delaware River is classified as Special Protection Waters due to exceptionally high water quality and outstanding natural resources with special regulations that protect those resources and maintain the River's exceptional water quality;

WHEREAS, since 2010 the Delaware River Basin Commission has had in place a de facto moratorium that prohibits shale gas development within the Delaware River Basin until it adopts regulations and citing three primary concerns – the diminishment of surface and groundwater, the release of pollution, and the impacts of disposal of waste from hydraulic fracturing activities;

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission has not conducted a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative and long-term impacts of shale gas development that concludes that hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development could safely occur within the Delaware River Basin without degradation of the Watershed's water resources and the essential values of Special Protection Waters;

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence that shale gas development has an adverse effect on public health, property interests, economic activity, agriculture and on our air, water and land;

WHEREAS, in recognition of those adverse impacts of shale gas development, the Town of Highland enacted Local Law No. 3-2012 which, among other things, explicitly prohibited certain uses and activities required or associated with hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development;

WHEREAS, in 2015, after seven years of review, the State of New York prohibited high-volume hydraulic fracturing, concluding that it posed "significant adverse impacts to land, air, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated";

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland considers that the weight of the evidence demonstrates that hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development cannot be done without degrading the exceptional water quality of the Delaware River and the environment within the Delaware River Basin;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that:

1. The Town calls upon the Delaware River Basin Commission to enact a complete and permanent prohibition of hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development within the Delaware River Basin; and
2. That a copy of this resolution be filed with the Delaware River Basin Commission, 25 Cosey Road, PO Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360 and DRBC New York Commissioner, Andrew Cuomo and Alternate Commissioners, Basil Seggos, Angus Eaton, Mark Klotz, and Kenneth Kosinski