

## Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Please find attached a resolution from Bethel, NY to enact a complete and permanent ban on hydraulic fracturing.



# *Town of Bethel*

*Sullivan County, New York*

Rita J. Sheehan, CMC/RMC  
Town Clerk/Registrar  
Records Management Officer  
(845) 583-4350 ext. 11

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL TOWN BOARD TO URGE THE  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION TO ENACT A COMPLETE AND  
PRERMANENT PROHIBITION OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND SHALE GAS  
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN**

WHEREAS, a fundamental purpose of government is to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens;

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel lies within the Delaware River Basin and has an interest in the continued exceptional water quality and environment of this important natural resource;

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, agriculture and on our air, water and land;

WHEREAS, in recognition of those adverse impacts of shale gas development, the Town of Bethel enacted Local Law No. 1-2012 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, a vitally important consideration is the climate effects of shale gas development in the Delaware River Basin, given that methane is a greenhouse gas 86 times more efficient in trapping heat than carbon over a 20 year time frame and that vented and fugitive losses from shale gas infrastructure contribute to atmospheric warming;

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel has pledged to be a NYS “Climate Smart Community” and is therefore committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Town 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT 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;
2. That a copy of this resolution be filed with:

Delaware River Basin Commission  
 25 Cosey Road  
 P.O. Box 7360  
 West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360.

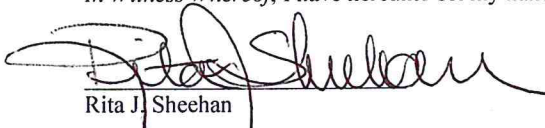
Motion by Councilwoman Vicky Simpson, seconded by Councilwoman Dawn Ryder and put to a roll call vote with 5 ayes and 0 nays as follows:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Daniel Sturm        | aye |
| Dawn Ryder          | aye |
| Bernard Cohen       | aye |
| Vicky Simpson       | aye |
| Lillian Hendrickson | aye |

State of New York  
 County of Sullivan County  
 Office of the Clerk of the  
 Town of Bethel

This is to certify that I, Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution for the DRBC to enact a complete and permanent prohibition on hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development adopted by the Town of Bethel Town Board on June 14, 2017 with the original now on file in this office, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such original and the whole thereof.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.



Rita J. Sheehan