

RESOLUTION NO. 47-09

OPPOSING NEW YORK STATE SEVERANCE TAX ON NATURAL GAS AND OIL PRODUCTION

WHEREAS, development of New York's natural gas resources has been of benefit to the State as a whole, its future potential could be furthered by ensuring Local Government involvement as well as State, and industry input be enlisted to mitigate any adverse impacts, improve regulatory oversight and to ensure public health, water quality, safety, municipal, property owner, farmland and financial concerns/rights are protected, and

WHEREAS, under the existing law, such tax revenue as there is remains in the form of a Production Unit Value levy, administered under the Real Property Tax system by and to local governments and special districts, which partially offsets the local costs born by municipalities of gas exploration and drilling impacts, and

WHEREAS, any new severance tax on oil and natural gas production under consideration in the State Legislature that would shift revenue to the State's General Fund from local governments that feel the most impact would only further increase the burden of such local adverse impacts, and

WHEREAS, the New York Farm Bureau, Unshackle Upstate, and the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce have all have expressed their opposition to such a severance tax on oil and natural gas production,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Lebanon Town Board opposes this proposed statewide severance tax and requests that the State Legislature not enact this proposed new tax, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Lebanon Town Board recommends that the appropriate State Legislative Committees and the New York Oil and Gas Advisory Board convene discussions immediately with municipal, town and county officials of areas where there is active gas well development, and other appropriate property owner groups, industry groups, and the New York Farm Bureau for the purpose of evaluating the current system of fuel production taxation in New York State and determining the most appropriate system for addressing local needs and impacts arising from the exploration, drilling, and production of natural gas, and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lebanon Town Clerk forward copies of this adopted resolution to Assemblyman Magee, State Senator Valesky, Governor Patterson, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and the appropriate chairs of the relevant state Environmental Conservation and Finance, Ways and Means Committees for each of the houses of the state Legislature

On Motion Of 
James Goldstein, Supervisor, Chair, Administration and Oversight