

52- RESOLUTION -2012

ACCEPT DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT TO DEVELOP STANDARDS TO ENSURE THE SAFE DEVELOPMENT
OF NATURAL GAS RESOURCES BASED ON THE EXPERTISE OF THE DEC

WHEREAS, the state has dedicated more than three years and more than 10,250 man-hours creating a 900-page comprehensive plan for the safe development of natural gas through its draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (sGEIS) under the leadership of The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Commissioner Joe Martens as well as Governor Andrew Cuomo; and

WHEREAS, promoting economic activity and creating jobs to support families is a top priority; and

WHEREAS, state officials are developing standards to ensure safe development of our natural gas resources based on the expertise of DEC employees and advisers, such as:

- * Requiring DEC staff to visit every well pads before permits are issued; and
- * Requiring pre-approval of wastewater treatment plans for every proposed well pad; and
- * Requiring natural gas operators to provide a plan for assessing and repairing any road where before permits are issued; and
- * Requiring multiple layers of cement and steel casings around each underground well, extending at least 75 feet below New York State's deepest drinking water tables; and
- * Requiring operators to provide dual failsafe protections for wastewater from hydraulic fracturing, mandating it be sealed in a watertight, covered tanks enclosed in a secondary containment system; and
- * Requiring disclosure of all additives used in the hydraulic fracturing process; and

WHEREAS, the role of municipal governments in New York State's natural gas development still remains under review by the DEC as a part of the ongoing sGEIS process; and

WHEREAS, local municipalities will have a designated role under the state guidelines once released; and

WHEREAS, development of our natural gas resources is currently prohibited pending the DEC's plan and final approval by Governor Cuomo; and

WHEREAS, premature local action in our municipality could negatively impact the competitive environment of all of New York State for natural gas development, and jeopardize the potential \$11.4 billion and statewide economic impact of development; and

WHEREAS, preserving a competitive environment for development in New York as compared to neighboring states will be critical to the economic future of our region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned, find pursuit of a ban or moratorium to be an irresponsible and premature misallocation of town resources pending the release of the state's final sGEIS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the state's leadership in developing a comprehensive statewide program to address the potential resource development holds for New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we have confidence the state will develop a program that allows development of our natural gas resources to proceed in a safe, responsible, and competitive manner.
