

## RESOLUTION

**Sponsor: Mr. Golombek**

**Subject: Dangers of Hydraulic Fracturing and Waste Disposal in New York State**

**Whereas:** A recent advance in techniques for extraction of natural gas from shale rock beds called hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking" has caused environmental and safety concerns across the country; and

**Whereas:** Widely reported negative effects of fracking include release of methane gas and dangerous chemicals and carcinogens into wells and other public water supplies. Vast amounts of fresh water are required. The chemicals used in fracking are considered proprietary, and are therefore secret. The waste water created in fracking poses a major disposal problem; and

**Whereas:** The NY DEC's S.G.E.I.S. fails to protect from environmental and health risks. There is no analysis of the public health impacts, drinking water supplies are inadequately protected and susceptible to contamination, there is no solutions to waste disposal issues, the waste is not classified as hazardous, the usage of toxic chemicals has not been limited or prohibited, and so on; and

**Whereas:** The DEC's S.G.E.I.S. protects the watersheds of N.Y.C. and Syracuse and no other watersheds, including Buffalo's. The rest of the state's watersheds cannot rely on outdated water filtration systems that can't remove the chemicals used in drilling. A Sept. 15, 2011 letter to Cuomo from 59 scientists stated, "We urge the state to reconsider its position that existing water filtration systems provide adequate protection against the risk of hydraulic fracturing."

**Whereas:** Neighboring Niagara Falls is considering treatment of fracking waste water. No long-term health impact analysis has been done on the safety of the effluent; residents could be exposed to chemicals otherwise not in their environment, and so on. The chemicals used in drilling are not biodegradable and solids from the waste could enter local landfills; and

**Whereas:** Research investigating the specific risk and benefit of hydraulic fracturing is lacking, with federal environmental exemptions. New York State is scheduled to begin issuing permits for hydraulic fracturing operations in 2012 after review of public comments; and

**Whereas:** Bill S4220/A7218-2011 is an act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of hydraulic fracturing and the disposal and/or processing of any fluid which was used in a hydraulic fracturing process; and

**Whereas:** Such operations may potentially cast negative environmental impacts upon Great Lakes communities and the residents of the City of Buffalo.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:**

The Common Council of the City of Buffalo hereby urges Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the State of New York to issue a prohibition suspending hydraulic fracturing operations in New York State due to possible dangers and environmental impacts of such operations.

41.

**Be It Further Resolved:**

This Honorable Body requests that the City Clerk forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and all members of the Western New York State Legislative Delegation.



---

Joseph Golombek Jr.