

RESOLUTION # 18

RESOLUTION FOR THE COCHECTON TOWN BOARD REGARDING NATURAL GAS DRILLING

On motion of Councilperson Richardson, seconded by Councilperson Grund, the following resolution was

WHEREAS: the Town Board of the Town of Cochection recognizes that its citizens have a reasonable expectation to live in an environment where clean air and water prevail; where the natural character and the value of their land are protected; and where dangers to health and safety are not tolerated; and

WHEREAS: the Town Board recognizes the presence of the Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline within its borders, and recognizes the presence of the natural gas-bearing sedimentary formation called the Marcellus Shale which lies beneath the entire surface of the Township and beneath the entire watershed of the Upper Delaware River, and

WHEREAS: the Town Board recognizes that various legislative and executive regulatory entities- including but not limited to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the New York State Senate-have numerous concerns with the potential advance of the natural gas industry into the Marcellus Shale, such concerns related to reduced water supply and water contamination that would result from large scale withdrawal of the region's water for industrial use, and to the improper treatment and disposal of the hundreds of billions of gallons of water that would be intentionally contaminated as part of the extraction process, and

WHEREAS: on April 13th Bill No. A10633 was introduced by eighteen Assembly Members, including Aileen Gunther, A. D. 98, and along with it's companion bill in the Senate S8043, and

WHEREAS: Bills No. A10633 and S8043 to amend N.Y. Env. Conserv. L. #23-0303, insofar as #23-0303 has been construed to strictly limit local governments ability to pass local laws and/or ordinances affecting the exploration and/or extraction of oil and gas, and

WHEREAS: Bills No. A10633 and S8043 expressly clarifies #23-0303 to re-establish "Home Rule" and the authority of local governments to pass local laws and/or ordinances which may affect the exploration and/or extraction of oil and gas, provided such local laws and/or ordinances do not regulate the exploration and/or extraction of oil and gas regulated by State statute, regulation and/or permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Cochection urges any and all legislative and executive regulatory entities, with the requisite authority, to act with due diligence to not only impose but also to continue the moratorium on natural gas drilling until such time as all studies examining the industrial process of natural gas drilling using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing are completed; as well as studies examining the cumulative impacts that large scale natural gas extraction may have upon the Delaware River Watershed and upon the health and well being of its people are completed and are considered to pose no imminent and long-term danger to the citizens of Cochection.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Cochection strongly supports these bills A10633 and S8043 and urges our State Legislators to support these bills and to make sure they are re-introduced in the next session of Legislature.