

# Borough of Chatham

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE • CHATHAM • NEW JERSEY 07928

## RESOLUTION #14-332

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING PILGRIM PIPELINE HOLDINGS, LLC'S PROPOSED UNDERGROUND OIL PIPELINE FROM ALBANY, NY TO LINDEN, NJ TRAVERSING THE BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC ("Pilgrim") is proposing to build a bi-directional pipeline for the purposes of transporting crude oil and other refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and the refineries in Linden, New Jersey that would traverse the Borough of Chatham, NJ; and

**WHEREAS**, the pipeline will carry oil that has been extracted from North Dakota's Bakken shale through the process of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a method of oil and gas extraction that involves pumping toxic chemicals into the shale, threatening ground water, creating radioactive waste and releasing large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed route for the pipeline will cross the New Jersey Highlands region, an area that has been afforded special protection by the New Jersey State Legislature by its passage, in 2004, of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, which Act created the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council and the Highlands Regional Master Plan to ensure resource based planning would be used in the Highlands to combat sprawl and the depletion of water quality and quantity as the region provides drinking water to 5.4 million state residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed route for the pipeline also crosses the Buried Valley Aquifer, which has been designated as a "sole source aquifer" by the United States because of the high percentage of residents in the region who are dependent on the aquifer for potable water, including the Borough of Chatham, which obtains its water from wells that draw from the Buried Valley Aquifer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Chatham is charged with the wise stewardship of our natural resources for future generations and has long recognized the importance of preserving and protecting its open spaces and water resources by adopting an Open Space and Recreation Plan and a Wellhead Protection Ordinance, and has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for all its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on November 10, 2014, the Borough Council discussed the safety and environmental issues arising from the proposed construction of the pipeline, as well as potential harm to municipal infrastructure, the possible adverse impacts of pipeline construction equipment, including the compaction of soil that would result in a reduction in water absorption rates, and the negative impacts on property values and upon future development in the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council recognizes that there is no substitute for water and is extremely concerned about the high risk that a leak in or explosion of the pipeline will compromise our aquifer for years or decades to come as the pipeline will cross the Buried Valley Aquifer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of highly volatile crude oil and crude oil products flowing through the pipeline, as well as its proposed route, which crosses through residential neighborhoods and passes by schools, should an explosion and or leak occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council is concerned that the record of pipeline leaks in this nation suggest that neither current pipeline technology nor federal pipeline inspection resources are adequate to mitigate the dangers this pipeline poses to our environment.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Chatham, in the County of Morris, that the Mayor and Borough Council opposes the construction of the Pilgrim pipeline and calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, surveying or construction of said pipeline through the Borough of Chatham (except as may be conducted by governmental agencies) as the project will negatively impact the Borough's sole source of water as well as its other valuable natural resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection be directed to conduct a full environmental impact study, including a Highlands Act review, to assess the myriad environmental consequences associated with this proposed project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, in recognition of the need for the Mayor and Borough Council, and all Borough residents, to be kept informed about this project, that it hereby establishes an advisory committee, to be known as the Chatham Borough Pilgrim Pipeline Advisory Committee (the "Committee"), which Committee will be responsible for obtaining information on the pipeline, advising the Mayor and Borough Council thereon, and conducting information sessions for residents (which may include inviting Pilgrim officials to speak to residents about the project), otherwise informing Borough residents about the project and establishing and maintaining liaisons with other groups opposed to the pipeline; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the initial members of the Committee shall be: Len Resto, Kate Murphy, Tony Britt and Dick Plambeck; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Council Member John Holman, Council Member Alida Kass and Council Member James Collander shall serve as liaisons from the Council to the Committee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, recognizing that this resolution is only the beginning of our expression of opposition to the project that all concerned Borough residents are encouraged to maintain vigilance about this project and to individually contact their county, state and federal officials to express their opposition to this project; and

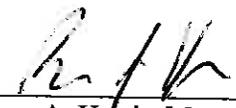
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Chris Christie, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Senate President Steven M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, State Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, the governing bodies of all Morris County Municipalities and the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Adopted November 24, 2014

Attest:

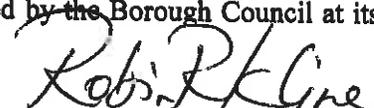
  
Robin R. Kline, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

  
Bruce A. Harris, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Robin R. Kline, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Borough Council at its meeting held on November 24, 2014.

  
Robin R. Kline, MAS, RMC, CMR