



Resolution Regarding Natural Gas Mining In Tight Formations

WHEREAS, Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition (BRSC) supports clean, safe and responsible energy production as a cornerstone of sustainability, resilience, and a key part of building local prosperity, and

WHEREAS, the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition (BRSC) is a grassroots, democratically run organization, dedicated to increasing civic participation through education and collaboration to achieve enduring social, environmental and economic well-being. BRSC is working in the region of New York and Pennsylvania in a forty mile radius around Binghamton to become a regional information clearinghouse to promote new and existing sustainability efforts, a source for sustainability training and education, a center for networking and coordination and an advocacy group that builds community support for public policies that further our mission, and

WHEREAS, giving billions of dollars of direct and indirect public subsidies for non-renewable energy, including exemptions from regulations and technologies designed to protect our health and safety, undermines the free market and gives the oil and gas industry an unfair competitive advantage against energy conservation and the production of clean renewable energy upon which our future depends, and

WHEREAS, extensive environmental and health damages have been caused by current horizontal drilling and high pressure hydrofracturing gas extraction techniques due to the contamination of water, soil and air by the toxic chemicals used in drilling and fracturing, and the naturally occurring toxic chemicals brought to the surface from deep in the ground, and

WHEREAS, these environmental and human and animal health effects have proven to have and will have damaging economic consequences on residential property values, tourism, hunting, fishing, agriculture, forestry, winery, real estate development, and educational institutions, and

WHEREAS, such damages coupled with the infrastructure costs of building and repairing roads, water treatment facilities, and other public services would far exceed any economic benefit to local communities, and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industries have demonstrated a consistent pattern of denial and avoidance of responsibility, making holding the industry accountable an uphill battle for landowners and governments alike, and

WHEREAS, after review of proposed unconventional natural gas production in New York, taking into account the extreme deficiencies in the New York State draft Supplemental Generic

Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) on oil, gas and solution mining, the lack of strong regulations, the lack of enforcement capacity, lack of water treatment capacity, as well as deficiencies in existing technologies, BRSC has concluded that natural gas production within tight deposits such as the Marcellus and Utica shale deposits cannot be clean or safe under current conditions, and

WHEREAS, until these conditions change so that gas production can be demonstrated to be clean and safe, it would be reckless and irresponsible to proceed, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition (BRSC) opposes the hydrologic mining of natural gas as it is now practiced, and as it is proposed within the New York State dSGEIS on oil, gas and solution mining, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that BRSC calls upon all regulators to withdraw approvals of existing wells and withhold approval of new wells until all parties involved agree to respect local land use regulations where industrial activity is restricted, until proven environmentally sound mining techniques are available, and until such time that such practices can be properly and effectively regulated, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BRSC strongly advocates aggressive state and national support and promotion of a Green Collar Economic "New Deal", directing public and private resources towards the creation of an economy based on true sustainability which includes such things as local food production and renewable energy while moving us away from activities that are wasteful, non-renewable, and ultimately destructive.

<http://www.binghamtonsustainability.org/>