WHEREAS, New York faces a potential environmental crisis in the form of hydraulic fracturing, known as "hydrofracking", which involves drilling deep horizontal wells into areas of shale, and infusing massive quantities of water and potentially toxic chemicals into wells to fracture the shale and release natural gas; and

WHEREAS, companies are buying land rights from landowners across New York with the expectation that New York State will quickly finalize its environmental review allowing hydrofracking in our region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed state environmental review raises serious questions about the ability of the proposed state permit conditions to protect our natural resources and prevent permanent damage to our environment; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Environmental Conservation Law supersedes local regulation of the gas and solution mining industries, thereby precluding local governments from regulating gas and oil well drilling operations; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Putnam County receive their drinking water from the unfiltered Catskill watershed; and

WHEREAS, the proposed permit conditions could allow companies to conduct hydrofracking within the Catskill and Delaware watersheds and could fail to provide for adequate protection for the drinking water supply to Putnam County from potential contaminants released during the hydrofracking process; and

WHEREAS, the proposed permit conditions fail to adequately monitor groundwater near gas wells and fail to detect or remediate

Vote:
State Of New York
ss:
County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on August 3, 2010.

Dated: August 5, 2010

Signed: ________________________________

M. Chris Marrone
Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County
Resolution #220
Introduced by Legislator: Sam Oliverio Jr. on behalf of the Health, Social, Educational
& Environmental Committee at a Regular Meeting held on August 3, 2010.

contamination of aquifers, thereby posing a threat to individual and public
supply wells; and

WHEREAS, the proposed permit conditions further fail to provide
for an adequate analysis of the chemicals used in the fracking fluids,
allowing the use of substances that may be carcinogenic, mutagenic or
endocrine disrupters; and

WHEREAS, frequent and heavy traffic on poorly paved roads from
hydrofracking operations may cause significant damage to water quality
within the Catskill and Delaware watersheds by increasing the amount of
sedimentation runoff and potential for contamination through truck
accidents; and

WHEREAS, the constituents of the flowback water from the
hydrofracking operations may be unsuitable and unsafe for disposal at
local wastewater treatment plants, resulting in potential holding ponds of
toxic waste across New York; and

WHEREAS, the large quantities of water that must be withdrawn for
hydrofracking operations pose a serious and permanent threat to our
ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the potential for contamination of municipal and
individual well-based drinking water and the potential water quality
impacts from the migration of chemicals and improper discharge of
wastewater directly into the watershed are causes of deep concern to this
legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the potential damage to local landscapes and wildlife is
incalculable and the possible threat to air quality and public health from
drilling operations is immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, in comments on the draft environmental review of high-
volume hydraulic fracturing the United States Environmental Protection
Agency stated it “has serious reservations about whether gas drilling in

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the New York City watershed is consistent with the vision of long-term maintenance of a high quality unfiltered water supply"; and

WHEREAS, water from the Catskill and Delaware Watershed is subject to a Filtration Avoidance Determination ("FAD") from the United States Environmental Protection Agency that allows New York City to avoid building a water filtration plant estimated to cost at least $10 billion to construct and hundreds of millions of dollars to operate annually; and

WHEREAS, hydrofracking impacts cause the United States Environmental Protection Agency to revoke the FAD a portion of the costs of building a filtration could be passed on to Putnam consumers; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to pursue further independent scientific assessments of all aspects of hydrofracking and the United States Environmental Protection Agency initiated such an assessment only very recently; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body recognizes a need for both energy independence and economic vitality within upstate communities but natural gas development must not endanger the Catskill and Delaware watersheds which supplies drinking water for eight million individuals; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis evaluating the proposed Marcellus Shale natural gas development in New York State has not been completed; and

WHEREAS, New York State's recently expressed intent to conduct site-specific environmental review for hydrofracking projects within the Catskill and Delaware watershed does not remove the above serious risks, but only defers consideration of those risks to a later date to facilitate the issuance of drilling permits in other parts of the State; now therefore be it

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M. Chris Marrone
Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #220
Introduced by Legislator: Sam Oliverio Jr. on behalf of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee at a Regular Meeting held on August 3, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby requests the state to impose a moratorium on hydrofracking operations pending completion of further independent scientific assessments and final review by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and other relevant government bodies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby requests that the state ban hydrofracking operations within the Catskill and Delaware watersheds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby further requests that Governor Paterson withdraw from SEQRA review the Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement On The Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program-Well Permit Issuance for Horizontal Drilling and High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing to Develop the Marcellus Shale and Other Low Permeability Gas Reservoirs, pending further independent scientific assessments to determine the aggregate protection provided therein concerning the public health, environmental and economy of New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk is hereby authorized to send a certified copy of this resolution to U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; U.S. Representative John Hall, New York State Governor David Paterson; New York State Senator Vincent L. Leibell; New York State Assemblywoman Galef; New York State Assemblyman Ball; the President Pro Tem of the New York State Senate; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Protection.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. THREE NAYS – LEGISLATORS BIRMINGHAM, CONKLIN & OTHMER. MOTION CARRIES.

Vote:
State Of New York
ss:

County of Putnam

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Dated: August 5, 2010

Signed: M. Chris Marrone

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Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County