RESOLUTION NO. 148-10 INTRODUCED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
DECLARING THE POLICY OF THIS SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE NOT TO
ALLOW HYDROFRACKING ON PROPERTY OWNED BY SULLIVAN COUNTY
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS POTENTIAL IMPACTS ARE IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED

WHEREAS, horizon drilling and high volume hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking) are
technologies that allow for the extraction of natural gas from areas of shale formation, including
Marcellus Shale; and

WHEREAS, hydrofracking involves drilling deep wells and pumping large quantities of
fluid mixed with sand and chemicals into the underground shale to release the natural gas; and

WHEREAS, while there is potential for these technologies to have positive economic
impacts, questions have been raised regarding the need for further study to evaluate the potential
long term environmental and community impacts of hydrofracking, particularly with respect to
water use and management and the composition of the fluids used to fracture the shale; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has
released an environmental study (Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement)
on hydrofracking , and various interested parties have responded with comments and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Water Utility Council, while supporting the
development of natural gas resources, has raised concerns about potential water quality impacts,
including potential contamination of groundwater and surface water during the hydraulic
fracturing process, and has urged New York State to impose environmentally responsible
safeguards to protect our water resources, the environment and public health; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that New York
State needs to further address the cumulative and indirect impacts of hydrofracking, and needs to
provide for further mitigation of potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the
withdrawal of surface or ground water; and

WHEREAS, additional issues raised with respect to hydrofracking include the potential
financial burden on the taxpayers for monitoring and tracking water quality and flowback water,
the cumulative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, the impacts on local roads from increased
traffic and use of heavy machinery, the potential impact on the local landscape, and the possible
adverse impact upon personal property rights; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to balance environmental and public health concerns with
the desire for adequate energy resources and economic development, and to take appropriate
measures to protect the long term viability of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, until such time as the potential long term, cumulative and indirect
environmental and public health impacts are adequately addressed and appropriate mitigation
measures are identified, it is the desire of this Legislature that no hydrofracking be permitted on county owned property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature hereby declares as its policy that hydrofracking shall not be allowed on property owned by Sullivan County until potential environmental and economic impacts are identified and addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Sullivan County Legislature is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the New York State Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Moved by Mr. Sager, seconded by Mrs. LaBuda, put to a vote, unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion March 18, 2010.