



Kirkland Democratic Committee

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Clinton, NY 13323**

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RESOLUTION ON HYDROFRACKING BAN IN NEW YORK STATE

May 19, 2011

WHEREAS, much of New York State is above the natural gas deposit formations known as the Utica and Marcellus Shales which are of intense interest to the gas industry and its agents, and that high-volume, horizontal hydraulic-fracturing (hydrofracking) could occur on a vast scale on both public and private land leased to the industry; and

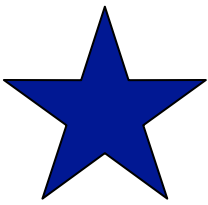
WHEREAS, hydrofracking extracts natural gas held in deep shale deposits by the injection of millions of gallons of water, sand and toxic chemicals under extreme pressure through wells extending thousands of feet vertically and up to three miles horizontally; and

WHEREAS, hydrofracking threatens contamination of aquifers, wells, and surface waters, and because the fluid ("produced water") that returns to the surface is contaminated with toxic chemicals and radioactive elements and is then stored in open pits or trucked to unequipped water treatment plants for disposal; and

WHEREAS, the construction of each hydrofracking site on approximately 5 acres of land involves a well head structure containing up to eight individual wells, storage tank(s), and possible "produced water" evaporation pit, and because the continuing operation of each well requires hundreds of heavy truck trips for water hauling and waste disposal, each drilling area will be transformed into an industrial site and the clean open spaces of our state into an open industrial zone, and

WHEREAS, hydrofracking is exempt from the regulations of the Safe Water Drinking Act and the Clean Air Act, and the New York State moratorium on the issuance of hydrofracking permits will expire this summer, and the issuance of any future permits will be determined when the understaffed and underfunded New York State Department of Environmental Conservation completes its review process this year, and

WHEREAS, significant changes to New York's water laws now being considered by the state legislature could allow vast amounts of water now in the public domain to be made available to the powerful gas industries for hydrofracking; and



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WHEREAS, having had the opportunity to observe and research the environmental, public health, and economic impacts resulting from the drilling of many thousands of hydrofracking wells in neighboring Pennsylvania, many New York municipalities have taken action to prohibit hydrofracking activity;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we urge the State of New York to enact a permanent ban on hydrofracking and all of the accompanying operations of the hydrofracking process in order to protect the ground and surface water, the air, our communities, and all of the citizens of New York from environmental, public health, and economic harm.