

RESOLUTION NO. 2016- 13

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND ACID FRACTURING AND WELL STIMULATION TREATMENTS PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, is dedicated to protecting and improving our most precious natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida's water supply comes from highly permeable limestone formations which are vulnerable to contamination from hydraulic and acid rock-fracturing activities designed to extract hydrocarbons; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County gets all of its water from groundwater sources, including the Floridan Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic and acid fracturing or well stimulation is the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks boreholes, etc., so as to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas; and

WHEREAS, the high-pressure injection used to fracture may result in fracturing rock formations beyond the extraction site, potentially allowing harmful chemicals to migrate into the aquifer; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing may harm wildlife, including species that are protected under federal and state endangered species laws; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic or acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments may pose potential risks for contaminating the Floridan Aquifer, the source of drinking water for nearly 10 million Floridians; and

WHEREAS, acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments may involve the use of hundreds of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic or could otherwise be harmful to human health; and

WHEREAS, exposure to the chemicals used in acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health and safety and the environment; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic and acid fracturing or well stimulation treatments may involve the use of substantial amounts of freshwater at a time when many Florida local governments are struggling with the impacts that water scarcity may have in the state in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of Florida's water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the protection of Florida's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restore degraded environments after the fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners opposes hydraulic fracturing and acid fracturing and well stimulation treatments performed for the purposes of exploration or production of oil or natural gas in the State of Florida due to the potential impacts on the environment and natural resources of Nassau County, and finds it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Florida to do so.
2. The Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida directs that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President of the Florida Senate, Speaker of the House, Senator Aaron Bean, Representative Janet Adkins and the Governor of the State of Florida.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

DULY ADOPTED this 25th day of January, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



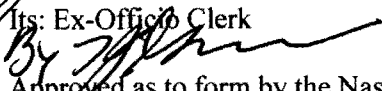
DANIEL B. LEEPER
Its: Vice Chairman

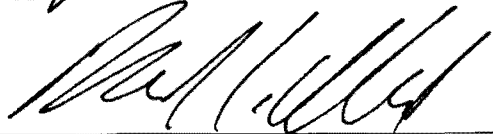
ATTEST AS TO CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD

Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

By  Approved as to form by the Nassau County Attorney:



MICHAEL S. MULLIN