

A RESOLUTION OF THE GORDON COUNTY COMMISSION, IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, REQUESTING STRICT REGULATION OF EXTREME METHODS OF OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING HYDRAULIC AND ACIDIC FRACTURING, WITHIN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the counties of Polk, Floyd, Chattooga, Gordon, Whitfield, Murray, Walker and Catoosa in Northwest Georgia sit atop the geological formation known as the Conasauga Shale Play that state geologists believe could hold as much as 625 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, during the past ten years oil and natural gas exploration companies have sought and purchased mineral rights from multiple landowners in these counties for the purpose of drilling natural gas producing wells; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division has issued three well drilling permits in recent years and at least one exploratory well has identified natural gas reserves beneath Whitfield County; and

WHEREAS, modern natural gas extraction techniques include horizontal drilling and hydraulic or acidic fracturing (fracking) that in other locales have been linked to contamination of groundwater and surface water, increased seismic activity and sinkholes; and

WHEREAS, existing state laws and rules were adopted prior to the advent of widespread use of fracking technology and fail to adequately regulate oil and natural gas exploration and protect our local communities from the risks associated with this activity; and

WHEREAS, the risks associated with oil and natural gas exploration present a real and present danger to the quality of life in our rural communities as well as our groundwater and surface water resources; and

WHEREAS, local governments should be able to protect against certain fracking impacts through ordinances, based on local conditions and resources at stake:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GORDON COUNTY COMMISSION, IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That fracking and other extreme methods of oil and gas extraction within the State of Georgia should be strictly regulated for the protection of Georgia's citizens, its waterways, and its landscape; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia General Assembly should amend existing state laws to better protect Georgia's citizens, waterways, and landscapes from the dangers of oil and natural gas extraction activities, and a moratorium should be put in place such that no state agency can issue a permit for well drilling until such laws and corresponding rules are so amended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of the State of Georgia should sign and approve such legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia General Assembly should not prevent local governments from enacting ordinances that more strictly regulate or restrict oil and natural gas exploration in their jurisdictions, as appropriate.

ADOPTED in the Regular Session of the Gordon County Commission, in the State of Georgia, this 13th day of September, 2016.

By: _____
Becky Hood, Board Chair

Attest: _____
Annette Berry, County Clerk