

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PROHIBITION ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND HORIZONTAL DRILLING (“FRACKING”) IN ST TAMMANY PARISH AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS TO TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY TO OPPOSE THE APPROVAL OF FRACKING ACTIVITIES

Whereas, the Town of Abita Springs has been made aware of proposed oil and gas activity by Helis Oil and Gas Company LLC (hereafter “Helis”) and

Whereas, an application has been presented by “Helis” to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources regarding the formation of a 960 acre Tuscaloosa Marine Shale Unit, encompassing portions of two oil and gas leases included with options to lease approximately 60,000 acres, and

Whereas, the Town of Abita Springs understands the proposed method of oil and gas extraction is horizontal high-volume hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) wherein gas and or oil is extracted from the shale by injecting large quantities of water, toxic chemicals, and sand under high pressure, and

Whereas, the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor of the Town of Abita Springs have studied and discussed the environmental, health, and economic impacts of this practice, and

Whereas, it is known and accepted that fracking fluids and silica when released into the environment can contaminate the air, soil, and water resulting in severe health impacts on members of the affected community, and

Whereas, published studies reveal property values for residences located near fracking sites have been negatively impacted, and

Whereas, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Abita Springs is interested in the well being and quality of life of its residents, and understand they represent a community of people who value clean air and pure water, where our children grow up healthy, and where we strive to prevent pollution and environmental destruction before it threatens the safety of our families.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Town of Abita Springs calls on the St Tammany Parish President and Council, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and our Louisiana Representatives and Senators to stand with the residents of this community, the Mayor, and the Town of Abita Springs Board of Aldermen in opposition to “fracking” in St. Tammany Parish.

Be it further resolved, the Town of Abita Springs strongly urges regulating government officials to deny the applicant authorization to move forward with fracking operations.

Be it further resolved, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Abita Springs authorizes the Mayor to act as necessary to oppose horizontal high-volume hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) activities in St. Tammany Parish, to take all action necessary and proper, including filing any opposition on behalf of the Town of Abita Springs before any administrative agencies and institute legal proceedings in such opposition before any Court.

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Aldermen requests that it be notified of any action taken by the Mayor under this resolution.

This resolution adopted on motion of Alderman Flad Edmiston, seconded by Alderman Blitch Welliver, on the 12th day of May, 2014.

Vote was: YEAS:5 Aldermen Berrigan, Blitch Welliver, Flad Edmiston, Kilpatrick-Harper, and Patterson NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

KATHY ARMAND, TOWN CLERK

HONORABLE GREG LEMONS, MAYOR