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Mayor and Council
400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Meeting: 10/13/14 07:00 PM
Department: Clerk

RESOLUTION 14-301

Resolution of the Municipality of Princeton, County of Mercer and State of New Jersey to Oppose the Penneast Pipeline Project

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON, COUNTY OF MERCER AND STATE OF
NEW JERSEY TO OPPOSE THE PENNEAST PIPELINE PROJECT.**

WHEREAS, AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, South Jersey Industries, UGI Energy Services and Public Service Electric and Gas are proposing to construct new 30-inch or 36-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline infrastructure through, among others, Hopewell, West Amwell and Delaware Townships in New Jersey, as part of the PennEast Pipeline proposal; and

WHEREAS, there are at least seven pending proposals to build pipelines in the Delaware River Basin, and eleven such proposals have been approved since 2011, threatening the Delaware River and other critical water resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed PennEast pipeline poses a safety threat to our neighboring communities, in that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration reports that incidents related to gas transmission lines have caused 41 deaths, 195 injuries, and \$1.6 billion in property damage over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the proposed PennEast Pipeline alignment crosses numerous preserved farms and conservation land, including New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Wickecheoke Creek Preserve; D&R Greenway Land Trust's Penn View Heights property in Pennington; and other properties on which these organizations, the Hunterdon Land Trust and the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association hold easements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline alignment passes through the New Jersey Highlands, which has been afforded special protection by the Legislature because of its environmental significance and provides drinking water to 5.4 million State residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline would pass through Mercer Meadows Park in Hopewell Township, a 1600+ acre park that has been developed with trails, bike paths, interpretive exhibits and other amenities funded by Mercer County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline passes through the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, including the sites of two documented Revolutionary War encampments; and

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WHEREAS, pipeline projects involve destruction of forests, segmentation and destruction of animal habitat, disturbance of natural ground cover that is displaced by invasive species, and degradation of rivers, streams and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline project is proposed based on speculative demand in other regions and countries and a glut of natural gas being extracted by hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in the Marcellus Shale region; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Township passed a resolution in opposition to the PennEast pipeline proposal (see attached); and

WHEREAS, natural gas is a fossil fuel that produces CO₂ when burned, contributing to climate change, and which slows the adoption of renewal energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, Princeton has adopted an ordinance banning fracking within its borders; and

WHEREAS, the proposed PennEast pipeline would terminate at and connect to a pipeline owned by Williams/TRANSCO, which is already seeking to construct a larger pipeline on the Princeton Ridge and owns other lines within the boundaries of Princeton;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Municipality of Princeton that:


1. Princeton opposes the proposed PennEast pipeline; and
2. If the PennEast proposal is submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") as contemplated, FERC must consider it, Williams/TRANSCO's Leidy Southeast Expansion and other pipelines proposed or being constructed in the Delaware Basin as part of one network requiring a full environmental impact statement.
3. Princeton supports the September 9, 2014 petition of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to the Delaware River Basin Commission asking that the DRBC exercise its jurisdiction over the proposed PennEast Pipeline project to prevent a substantial impact to and degradation of the water quality in the Delaware Basin; as well as Delaware Riverkeeper's efforts to have DRBC exercise jurisdiction over all proposed pipelines that would cross the Delaware Basin.
4. This resolution shall be distributed to:

Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive and the Mercer County Freeholders
Senators Menendez and Booker

Congressman Rush Holt
State Senator Kip Bateman
Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli
Assemblywoman Donna Simon
Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
Mayor Vanessa Sandom, Hopewell Township
Delaware River Basin Committee

Attest:


Clerk


Mayor