

## CHEMUNG RIVER RESOLUTION

October 28, 2012

**Whereas**, we the people, gathered in good faith at the Chemung River in Elmira NY, recognize the rich abundance of Earth and the beautiful diversity of life in this bioregion;

**Whereas**, we the people, inhabitants of this bioregion, recognize that how we relate with land, air, and water impacts the health and well-being of our local communities;

**Whereas**, we the people are morally compelled to prevent harm to our fellow beings, especially future generations who will inherit this land;

**Whereas**, horizontal, high-volume hydraulic fracturing is a recently-developed technology for the extraction of natural gas from shale rock, involving the injection of large quantities of water, toxic chemicals, and proppants into the ground under explosive pressure to create and hold open fractures in gas-bearing shale;

**Whereas**, new information has emerged regarding the significant dangers of this method of extraction of shale gas, causing independent experts to conclude that the technology poses a serious risk of immediate, long-term, or even permanent harm to land, air, and water; said harm occurring through the migration of methane and toxic chemicals into groundwater supplies, airborne gas and chemical emissions, induced seismic activity, disposal of liquid and solid toxic waste, and the widespread fragmentation of ecosystems and loss of wildlife caused by large-scale proliferation of drilling sites and related infrastructure;

**Whereas**, new information has emerged regarding incidents of contamination and sickness in Pennsylvania and other areas where fracking has occurred, leading medical professionals to question industry claims that unconventional extraction of natural gas can be done safely, without endangering human health;

**Whereas**, an industrialized landscape, created by the large-scale proliferation of fracking, threatens to supplant existing and emerging economies that sustain life, including locally-owned family farms, wineries, organic agriculture, outdoor recreation, tourism, and businesses rooted in the rich history and rural heritage of this bioregion;

**Whereas**, current state law regarding "compulsory integration" can force landowners, who for economic, environmental, medical, or ethical reasons oppose fracking, to accept horizontal drilling and the injection of toxic chemicals beneath their own private property so that gas companies can fracture the earth beneath them and extract natural gas;

**Whereas**, due to the political, legal, and regulatory framework in which the fossil fuel industry presently operates, communities that have been subjected to intense and widespread fossil fuel extraction, including fracking, disproportionately suffer the consequences of said extraction through environmental injustice and social-economic exploitation, without equitably sharing in the financial benefits enjoyed by industry; and

**Whereas**, natural gas has existed within shale formations since early geologic time and will continue to reside there until alternative technologies are developed that ensure safe extraction in the future, it is imprudent and morally objectionable to proceed with current methods of fracking in light of the inherent and significant risks posed to the environment, human health, and society.

**Now, therefore** be it resolved by the undersigned that we:

- Oppose current methods of horizontal high-volume hydraulic fracturing and support local and statewide moratoria or bans on use of the current technology;
- Encourage the development of sustainable economies, renewable energy, and conservation measures, so that present inhabitants of New York State may secure the health and well-being of future generations; and
- Urge local communities and all persons of good-will to support this resolution with committed action.