

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)**

**WHEREAS**, hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” is a method of extracting natural gas that involves injecting a mixture of water, sand and a complex combination of toxic chemicals at an extremely high pressure to break up shale or other rock formations otherwise impermeable to the flow of natural gas; and

**WHEREAS**, fracking requires millions of gallons of water per well, increasing demand on regional water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, fracking operations produce toxic wastewater that requires disposal in special treatment facilities that do not exist in Western North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, negative environmental and public health impacts related to hydraulic fracturing have been documented in other states, including contamination of drinking water wells, contamination of surface water, degradation of air-quality, an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and increased incidents of earthquakes; and

**WHEREAS**, fracking can industrialize rural and urban areas with drilling rigs, bright lights, twenty-four hour operations, new roads, wastewater containment ponds, new pipelines and other infrastructure that brings attendant air, water and noise pollution detrimental to property values and future economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2014, Governor Pat McCrory signed the Energy Modernization Act, lifting the moratorium on fracking and allowing permits to be issued in early 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly has allocated funding to the Department of Natural Resources to explore for the presence of shale gas in Western North Carolina and such exploration is scheduled to begin this summer; and

**WHEREAS**, Western North Carolina has diverse and abundant natural resources, including state and national parks and national forests, that are enjoyed by millions of people every year and that provide a basis for the region’s multi-billion dollar tourist economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson County has a vested interest in protecting the region’s natural resources, both because of their intrinsic value and because they bring tourist and new residents to the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Modernization Act purports to restrict local governments from regulating or restricting fracking in their jurisdictions; and


**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the North Carolina Constitution states that “It shall be the policy of the State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivisions...to control and limit the pollution of our air and water...and in every other appropriate way to preserve as part of our common heritage of this State its forest, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands and places of beauty”;

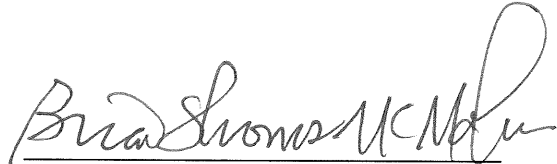
**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners that:

1. Jackson County believes fracking in Jackson County and in Western North Carolina would be contrary to the need to preserve the region's natural resources for the region's health, economy and quality of life;
2. Jackson County calls on the state not to explore future horizontal hydraulic fracturing in any part of North Carolina, but specifically in Western North Carolina and Jackson County;
3. Jackson County calls on the General Assembly to re-instate the ban on fracking throughout the state, but specifically in Western North Carolina and Jackson County;
4. Jackson County calls on the General Assembly to re-instate the authority of local governments to regulate fracking and its impact if local elected officials deem it necessary.

**ADOPTED:** January 8, 2015.

Attest:

  
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Angela M. Winchester  
Clerk to Board

  
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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman  
Jackson County Board of Commissioners

