

TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE
RESOLUTION OPPOSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-12-01

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 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 by scientific and regulatory authorities 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 cause attendant air, water, and noise pollution detrimental to property values and future economic growth; and,

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2014, Governor 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 Environment and Natural Resources to explore the presence of shale gas in Western North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina has diverse and abundant natural resources, including state and national parks and 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, the Town of Weaverville has a vested interest in protecting the region’s natural resources, both because of their intrinsic value and because they attract both tourists and new residents to the region; and,

WHEREAS, the Energy Modernization Act purports to restrict local governments from regulating or restricting fracking within 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 our part of our common heritage of this State, its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands, and places of beauty.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Weaverville that:

1. The Town of Weaverville believes that fracking in Buncombe 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. The Town of Weaverville calls upon the State not to permit future horizontal hydraulic fracturing in any part of North Carolina, but specifically in Western North Carolina and in Buncombe County.
3. The Town of Weaverville calls upon the General Assembly to re-instate the ban on fracking throughout the State, but specifically in Western North Carolina and in Buncombe County.
4. The Town of Weaverville calls upon the General Assembly to re-instate the authority of local governments to regulate fracking and its impacts if local elected officials deem it necessary to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to our legislative delegation and to the leadership of the North Carolina General Assembly.

This the 15th day of December, 2014

Signed:

Dorothea B. Sherrill, Mayor

Attest:

Shelby Shields, Town Clerk

SEAL