

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE WILLIAMS/NESE RARITAN BAY PIPELINE

WHEREAS, Williams is proposing the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project to build a 23.4 mile methane natural gas pipeline through Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay, from Old Bridge to Rockaway, New York; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proposed project is to transport 400 million cubic feet of methane natural gas by the process of hydraulic fracturing, from the Marcellus Shale to New York, which will be destructive to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the project will in no way serve the interests of the State of New Jersey, the County of Monmouth or its residents, and will only supply methane natural gas to Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island New York; and

WHEREAS, the Williams/NESE pipeline will have severe negative impacts to the Raritan and Lower New York Bays such as disturbing roughly, 14,165 acres of the seabed of the Raritan Bay, discharging 690,000 gallons of drilling fluid and chemicals into the bay, re-suspending over 1,090,000 tons of toxic contaminants including PCBs, dioxin, lead, mercury, and arsenic, and destroying over 1,000 acres of benthic habitat that houses marine fish, shellfish, and larva; and

WHEREAS, the project poses serious environmental concerns related to environmental harm to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as negative impacts to the safety, health and wellbeing of Bayshore coastal communities, which has resulted in well documented public opposition; and

WHEREAS, the Williams/NESE pipeline will endanger marine life and fisheries through decrease water quality from re-suspended toxins, sieving of over 3.5 Million gallons of seawater destroying any living thing in caught in the process, loud sounds and powerful vibrations that accompany pipeline development which will impact migration patterns, communication systems and other important biological processes; and

WHEREAS, the Williams/NESE pipeline will have significant upstream environmental impacts that will directly harm the Raritan bay such as negatively affecting 41 acres of wetlands, including approximately 20 acres of forested wetland; and

WHEREAS, the Williams/NESE pipeline will adversely impact industries important to the New Jersey Bayshore communities, disturb commercial and recreational fishing and shell fishing activities, and potentially damage the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, despite being directly affected from the proposed Williams/NESE pipeline, there has been no public hearing within the Bayshore Community; and

WHEREAS, the Williams/NESE pipeline will increase dependency on fossil fuels, reverses the state's renewable energy agenda, and contributes to climate change through increased emissions of methane and carbon dioxide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Monmouth hereby opposes the construction and installation of a 23.4 mile methane natural gas pipeline through Raritan Bay from Old Bridge to Rockaway, New York. Construction of the pipeline will negatively impact the health of the Bayshore, coastal ecosystems, marine life, benthic habitats, and coastal communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Monmouth urges the company Williams to eliminate any further consideration for a pipeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Monmouth urges the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to deny any permit application for the project and any other pipeline, and urges its representatives of the New Jersey Legislature, United States Congress and United States Senate as well as the Governor of New Jersey to oppose this pipeline application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy; Matthew Resnick of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Land Use Regulation; the Monmouth County Legislative Delegation, all Monmouth County Municipalities and all other Boards of Chosen Freeholders.