

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R-06-12

Passed May 7, 2012

Introduced by All Council Members

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PRIOR TO RELEASE OF ANY LANDS LOCATED WITHIN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR OIL/GAS LEASING.

WHEREAS, Ohio municipalities are required by law to protect the health and safety of their citizens from pollution of their water supply; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens drinking water supply is a sole source aquifer adjacent to and recharged by the Hocking River, and significant water withdrawals from the aquifer and/or the Hocking River will have a deleterious effect on the City's water supply, which is our duty to maintain; and

WHEREAS, the water table in our well fields ranges from surface level to 20 feet below the surface throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the aquifer that feeds Athens' water supply is shallow, averaging 60 feet below ground level, and is therefore especially susceptible to pollution from surface level and near-surface level contamination; and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional duty of Athens elected officials to protect the health, safety and welfare of persons within its jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Wayne National Forest Plan explicitly did not address impacts from Deep-Shale Horizontal Drilling and High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF), and

WHEREAS, HVHF has been documented extensively for highly significant impacts on water quality, air quality, human health, local economies, and social well-being, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Athens County have spoken via the Ohio University community survey in large majorities about their concerns with the potential impacts of HVHF on our community and especially on our drinking water supply, and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Policy Act requires that an Environmental Impact Statement be completed to assess any action that may have significant impact on the human environment, and

WHEREAS, an EIS prior to release of lands to the BLM is the only way that our community's water, air, and economy can be assured of protection from damage by HVHF on Wayne lands, and

WHEREAS, sustainable economic development for Athens and surrounding areas require clean and safe drinking water, clean air, and a good quality of life, all of which will be threatened by damage from HVHF to essential and irreplaceable water and air resources;

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Resolution No. **R-06-12 Page 2**

Passed _____, _____

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO THAT:

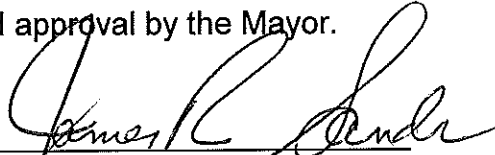
SECTION I: The City of Athens calls upon the Wayne National Forest to complete a National Environmental Impact (EIS) process prior to release of any surface or subsurface rights for oil/gas leasing under its jurisdiction.

SECTION II: The City recognizes that Wayne National Forest is legally obligated under the National Environmental Policy Act to consider regional impacts of significant activities on any and all Wayne National Forest lands. Furthermore, Wayne National Forest is under legal obligation to consider how leases on its land add cumulatively to the total impacts that will be experienced in our region. The Wayne is further obligated by NEPA to conduct an EIS with full public input and public assessment for sufficiency before engaging in an action with potentially significant impacts on the human environment in which the Forest is located.

SECTION III: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, which authorizes the EIS process, that all significant impacts from potential HVHF activities be assessed and a full range of alternatives be considered with full public input and assessment for sufficiency before any lands or subsurface rights are released to the BLM for oil/gas leasing. These include potential economic, social and environmental impacts on the region.

SECTION IV: The City shall be kept informed of all aspects of the EIS process, including all public hearings and meetings, and shall be supplied with all draft reports.

SECTION V: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect at the earliest moment permitted by law upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.



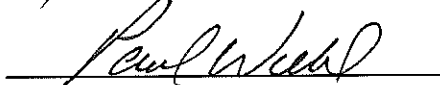
President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

APPROVED:



Mayor