

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2015-

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
4 OPPOSING EXTREME WELL STIMULATION, HYDRAULIC  
5 FRACTURING, ACID FRACTURING, AND ANY FORM OF  
6 EXTREME WELL STIMULATION FOR PURPOSES OF  
7 RESOURCE EXTRACTION IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA;  
8 URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROHIBIT  
9 THE USE OF SUCH MEASURES; PROVIDING FOR THE  
10 TRANSMISSION OF THE RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING  
11 FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12 WHEREAS, Broward County has demonstrated a decades-long commitment to  
13 protection of the environment with a strong focus on local and regional water resources;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, clean water is fundamental to the health of Florida's environment  
16 and economy; and

17 WHEREAS, public and private water utilities across Broward County rely entirely  
18 upon groundwater sources, including the Biscayne and Floridan Aquifers, for potable  
19 water supplies; and

20 WHEREAS, extreme well stimulation such as hydraulic and acid fracturing (also  
21 known as "fracking") is the process of pumping a complex mix of fluids and chemicals,  
22 including large volumes of water, under very high pressure into or below the surface of  
23 the ground to create fractures in oil- or gas-bearing geologic formations for the purpose  
24 of producing or recovering oil or gas; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during fracturing have  
documented adverse effects on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, there have been more than one thousand (1,000) documented  
cases of water contamination near fracking sites; and

1           WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal or state law to  
2 publicly disclose chemical formulas of well stimulation and fracturing fluids; and

3           WHEREAS, use of these well stimulation fracturing mixes exposes adjacent land  
4 and surface waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage, truck transport  
5 on roadways, and activities during well development; and

6           WHEREAS, much of Florida's water supply comes from aquifers in  
7 highly-permeable limestone formations which are vulnerable to contamination from  
8 hydraulic rock-fracturing activities designed to extract hydrocarbons; and

9           WHEREAS, Florida's oil and gas regulations, Chapter 377, Florida Statutes, and  
10 Rules 62C-25 through 62C-30, Florida Administrative Code, make no reference to  
11 hydraulic fracturing or other well stimulation techniques; and

12           WHEREAS, in January 2014, an oil drilling company in Collier County was  
13 discovered to be using high-pressure injections of acid and water to blast open bedrock  
14 to gain access to oil reserves near underground aquifers; and

15           WHEREAS, in July 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
16 revoked the drilling permits of the oil drilling company and fined the company  
17 Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000); and

18           WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing poses potential risks for contaminating the  
19 Floridan Aquifer, the source of drinking water for nearly ten million (10,000,000)  
20 Floridians and an essential water supply in Broward County; and

21           WHEREAS, Florida's water supplies and resources are better protected through  
22 the prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than the cleanup  
23 of contamination and restoration of degraded environments after the fact; and

24

1           WHEREAS, Broward County's federal legislative program presently includes  
2 opposition to hydraulic fracturing in Florida; and

3           WHEREAS, during the 2015 regular session of the Florida Legislature, the  
4 Florida House of Representatives approved a bill to specifically authorize the use of  
5 extreme well stimulation in Florida and to preempt local government regulation of  
6 hydraulic fracturing, and the Florida Senate most likely would have voted on the bill had  
7 the session not ended prematurely, NOW, THEREFORE,

8  
9           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
10 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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12           Section 1. Broward County opposes the use of hydraulic fracturing, acid  
13 fracturing, and any form of extreme well stimulation for purposes of resource extraction  
14 in the State of Florida.

15           Section 2. Broward County urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation  
16 prohibiting the use of hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and any form of extreme well  
17 stimulation for purposes of resource extraction in the State of Florida.

18           Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of  
19 Florida, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the  
20 Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate,  
21 and the Broward County Legislative Delegation.

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Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this                  day                  , 2015.

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

By /s/ Michael C. Owens                  6/17/15  
Michael C. Owens                  (date)  
Senior Assistant County Attorney

MCO/gmb  
06/17/15  
Fracking Ban Resolution.doc  
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