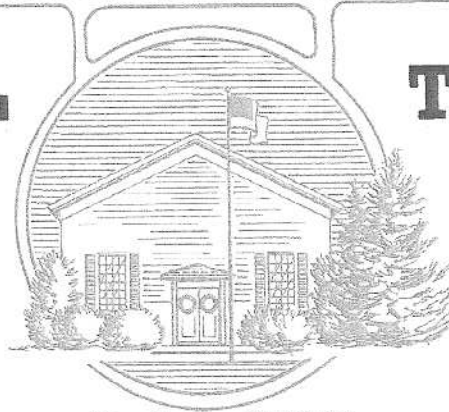


# RUSSELL

8501 Kinsman Road  
P.O. Box 522



# TOWNSHIP

Novelty, Ohio 44072

## Resolution 2013-04

### **A Resolution to the Ohio General Assembly Seeking the Return to the Control of Local Governments of Oil and Gas Extraction**

**Whereas**, there are risks and dangers inherent to oil and natural gas extraction and the related industrial activity associated therewith;

**Whereas**, local governments are better suited to assess the potential dangers to local communities of oil and gas extraction by possessing superior knowledge of the geography, resources and environment in which the activities will occur;

**Whereas**, according to government and peer-reviewed scientific studies, professional risk assessments, reports from first-hand observations and experiences, as well as credible news sources, environmental and human health impacts have resulted from documented spills, blowouts, leaking wells and other environmental accidents resulting from the extraction of oil and natural gas;

**Whereas**, the process of hydraulic fracturing has inherent risks to human health and the environment as well as threatens the health of streams and lakes;

**Whereas**, the process known as "deep injection" used to deposit brine/toxic "frack" waste under extreme pressure in wells several thousands of feet in the earth is considered the safest disposal method, yet has been shown by research to pollute water aquifers and to trigger earthquake activity;

**Whereas**, the transportation of "frack" waste results in heavy truck traffic that damages local roads as well as threatens toxic spills and other infrastructure damage;

**Whereas**, with the reduction of revenues from the State, local communities will be hard-pressed to find the resources to repair the damage to roads and to cope with the threat of spills and contamination;

**Whereas**, the inspectors of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources should provide local governments with reports containing their observations of the adequacy and safety of drilling operations including, but not limited to, the proper installation of cement barriers and the safety of brine containment and disposal;

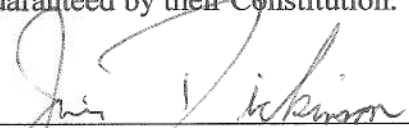
**Whereas**, the Board of Trustees of Russell Township recognizes that clean water and air are essential for the health and safety of the community and that damage to water resources and air thereby causes tangible losses to the health, property and lives of individuals, communities and ecosystems;

**Whereas**, the oil and gas industry has secured broad exemptions from six key federal laws, such as the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, since 2005 and in addition, in spite of considerable testimony in opposition, the Ohio General Assembly granted special privileges to the oil and natural gas industry by removing all local control over this industry, which jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio; and

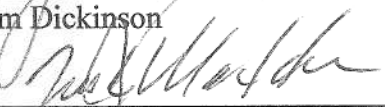
**Whereas**, the Board of Trustees of Russell Township is concerned about protecting the health and safety of its residents, yet is pre-empted from acting to protect its residents..

**Now, therefore, it is resolved** by the Board of Trustees of Russell Township that:

1. The Ohio General Assembly has enacted laws that allow an inherently disruptive and at times dangerous industry to operate in rural and residential areas without adequate oversight by local authorities, to the detriment of the overall health and safety of the residents of Russell Township.
2. By reducing financial assistance to local communities while removing the ability of local governments to control an inherently dangerous activity, the Ohio General Assembly has created a potential hazard for the citizens of the State of Ohio.
3. The Board of Trustees of Russell Township conveys to the Ohio Governor and the Ohio General Assembly its complete dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs and calls upon the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly to look to the interests of our greater community rather than the interests of a single industry by repealing any and all laws that preempt local control of all oil and natural gas extraction and the associated risky industrial activity; and, further, that the Assembly begin a new and an open, transparent review process that provides the citizens of Ohio the protections they are guaranteed by their Constitution.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Dickinson

\_\_\_\_\_  
*aye*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin Madden

\_\_\_\_\_  
*aye*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Mueller

\_\_\_\_\_  
*aye*

**Resolved, this 16th day of January, 2013.**