

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVES TO NATURAL GAS EXPANSION

**Whereas** NYSEG's rate case (15-G-0284) currently being considered by the Public Service Commission (PSC) proposes the \$17 million Freeville-Lansing natural gas pipeline project across the Village of Freeville and Towns of Dryden and Lansing, and the \$350,000 Boiceville natural gas pipeline project in the Town of Caroline – projects designed to address existing peak demand for space and water heating as well as up to 20 years of load growth, and NYSEG customers, including Town of Dryden residents, will be required to pay for these projects; and

**Whereas** in 2012 (case 12-G-0297) the PSC encouraged natural gas expansion because it would create jobs and provide cheaper, cleaner heating fuel than propane or fuel oil, and utilities receive financial incentives for adding new gas customers, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides incentives for conversion to natural gas appliances; and

**Whereas** in the historic COP21 Climate Accord in Paris earlier this year, the nations of the world agreed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to prevent global warming from reaching the catastrophic 2 degrees Celsius threshold, and New York State and Tompkins County have both set GHG reduction goals and the Town of Dryden is a Climate Smart Community that recognizes that climate change is a real and urgent public issue that must be addressed by reduction in GHG emissions, energy efficiency improvements, lifestyle changes, and use of renewable energy; and

**Whereas** natural gas (methane) is 100 times more potent a GHG than CO<sub>2</sub> over the next critical 20 years, and decreasing our use of natural gas now is the only thing that can slow the rate of global warming and buy precious time while moving aggressively toward a renewable energy economy<sup>1</sup>.

### **NOW therefore be it**

**Resolved** that the Dryden Town Board urges the PSC and NYSERDA to recognize that expanding markets for natural gas is contrary to municipal and state goals for reducing GHG emissions, will forestall the transition to renewables that we must make, will result in stranded assets when we do transition, and will increase costs to society from climate change impacts - and for all these reasons expanding natural gas markets is not in the public interest, and further be it

**Resolved** that the Dryden Town Board urges that the PSC, prior to authorizing natural gas expansion projects, directs the utilities to identify non-fossil fuel alternatives such as energy efficiency, electric heat pumps and demand response that can meet reliability needs while saving ratepayers money and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and be it further

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<sup>1</sup> 2014, Howarth, R. A bridge to nowhere: methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas. In *Energy Science and Engineering* [http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/summaries\\_CH4.php](http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/summaries_CH4.php) accessed April 10, 2016

**Resolved** that the Dryden Town Board asks the PSC and NYSERDA to curtail incentives that result in natural gas expansion, and instead that they develop incentives to reduce the number of natural gas customers and support installation of non-fossil fuel appliances for water and space heating.

**Additionally, be it resolved** that the Dryden Town Clerk will send a certified copy of this resolution to NYS Governor Cuomo; PSC Chairwoman Audrey Zibelman; Honorable Kathleen Burgess, Secretary to the Commission to be filed as part of the public record for case 15-G-0284; Mr. John B. Rhodes, President and CEO at New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; NYS Senator James L. Seward; NYS Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton; Tompkins County Legislature; Town of Caroline Town Board, Town of Lansing Town Board, Village of Freeville Trustees, Tompkins County Planning Department and the Tompkins County Area Development agency.

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