Lee County
North Carolina
Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Lee County Board of Commissioners

Item Abstract
Item No. V. C.

Meeting Date: April 2, 2012

Subject: Resolution Supporting the Extraction of Natural Gas in North Carolina

Department: Governing Body

Contact Person: Chairman Linda Shook

Request: Resolution Supporting the Extraction of Natural Gas in North Carolina

Summary: Chairman Shook asked a Resolution of support for the extraction of natural gas in North Carolina be included in the agenda package for discussion and possible approval.

Budget Impact: N/A

Attachment(s): Resolution

Public Hearing: No

Prior Board Action: N/A

Recommendation: Approve Resolution as presented
RESOLUTION BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SOUND LEGISLATION AND POLICIES FOR THE EXTRACTION OF NATURAL GAS IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly instructed the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a study on the extraction of Natural Gas and provide recommendations on the “best practices” of the gas industry; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has released their preliminary report on the practice of natural gas drilling in our State and held public hearings on the report in Sanford and Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Commissioners have been educating themselves on the practices used in the United States for natural gas extraction and will continue to do so as this legislative process goes forward; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Environmental Affairs Board has sent a letter to the State Senate Committee for Energy Policy asking them to take into consideration many issues that will affect Lee County if natural gas drilling is allowed in our County; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Commissioners supports the following as the North Carolina General Assembly and Department of Environment and Natural Resources moves forward in the development of Legislation, rules and regulations for Natural Gas Exploration in North Carolina:

1) The Goal of the State Legislation will be for Natural Gas Exploration and Extraction in North Carolina to be a model enterprise for other States to follow.

2) The legislation will protect the environment of our State and will require the gas industry to ensure that any damage is repaired at industry expense.

3) The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources puts permitting processes in place that protects our State and create a process that encourages the gas industry to develop in our State.

4) The legislation preserves Local Governments authority to protect the property rights of its citizens and the jurisdiction’s infrastructure.
5) That the Legislature establishes appropriate bonds and fees for the industry to cover the impacts that will affect our community, and that ensures Local Governments will share in that revenue so they can continue to provide extant services at a high level and provide new services emanating from the development of the gas industry.

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners deliver copies of this resolution to the Honorable Beverly Perdue, Governor of North Carolina, the Honorable Tom Tillis, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, the Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate, the Honorable Mike Stone Lee County State House Representative and the Honorable Robert Atwater Lee County State Senate Representative. In addition, copies of this resolution are to be delivered to the Honorable Mayor Cornelia Olive and the Sanford City Council, and the Honorable Mayor Donald Andrews and Town Council of Broadway.

Adopted this 2nd day of April 2012.

Linda A. Shook, Chairman
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk to the Board