

ADOPTED

Resolution No. 2014-195

Resolution Opposing Underground Hydrocarbon Storage Adjacent to Seneca Lake

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature recognizes the importance of the Finger Lakes region as a whole and its economy, tourism, and watershed to the vitality of Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature is aware of the critical role played by Seneca Lake in particular for its designation as a scenic by-way, its role as a recreational asset and in promotion of tourism and viticulture, its importance to fish and wildlife, and for its role in providing drinking water for large segments of the adjacent population, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has become aware that plans have been proposed for storage of liquefied propane gas and additional compressed natural gas in large quantities in abandoned salt caverns, never designed for such purposes, adjacent to Seneca Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has reviewed independent quantitative risk analyses of those plans showing that the likelihood of extremely severe or catastrophic events such as fire with explosion, deaths and injuries, temporary or permanent evacuation, catastrophic property loss, and contamination of Seneca Lake occurring within 25 years as a result of such storage exceeds 40 percent, and

WHEREAS it is the opinion of the Tompkins County Legislature that such events could significantly damage the watershed of Seneca Lake in particular and the viticulture, tourism, and economy of the Finger Lakes region as a whole including those of Tompkins County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature joins other municipalities in respectfully requesting that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation withhold or rescind approval of any plan for gas storage adjacent to Seneca Lake,

RESOLVED, further, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, United States Senator Charles Schumer, United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York Senate Leaders Dan Skelos, Jeff Klein, and Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York Assembly Leaders Sheldon Silver and Brian Kolb, New York State Senators Michael Nozzolio, Thomas O'Mara, and James Seward, New York State Assemblyperson Barbara Lifton, Seneca County Board of Supervisors, Village of Watkins Glen Mayor and Trustees, and to the Tompkins County Council of Governments.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20
