

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 191

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 11, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LINDA STENDER**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman HOLLY SCHEPISI**

**District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Diegnan, Assemblywoman N.Munoz, Assemblyman Benson,**

**Assemblywomen Watson Coleman and Spencer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Opposes Pilgrim Pipeline project in NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2014)**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline project  
2 in New Jersey.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings is proposing to build two new  
5 parallel oil pipelines through the States of New Jersey and New  
6 York that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum  
7 products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey;  
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, The pipeline will carry oil extracted from North Dakota's  
10 Bakken shale formation, produced through the process of hydraulic  
11 fracturing, or fracking; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The transport of crude oil has increased more than 4,000  
13 percent in North America over the past six years as a result of the  
14 increased production of crude oil from the Bakken shale formation;  
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, In February the Wall Street Journal compared oil from 86  
17 locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the  
18 most explosive; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The Pilgrim Pipeline project would expand capacity to  
20 bring more of this very volatile fuel into the State on a route that  
21 passes densely populated and environmentally sensitive areas, and  
22 preserved lands; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The Pilgrim Pipeline project raises significant safety  
24 concerns for the State of New Jersey including potential harm to  
25 municipal and county infrastructure, and would likely have a  
26 negative impact upon future development in the community; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
28 Administration (PHMSA) only has 135 inspectors and 375 state  
29 partners to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of  
30 that pipeline system has been inspected since 2006; and

31 **WHEREAS**, A pipeline spill or rupture could harm communities, the  
32 environment, and drinking water supplies and would negatively  
33 affect the health, safety, and welfare of the State's residents; and

34 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Legislature recognized the significance of  
35 the New Jersey Highlands Region and afforded special protection to  
36 the region and its resources in 2004 with the passage of the New  
37 Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, which created  
38 the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council and the  
39 Highlands Regional Master Plan to ensure resource-based planning  
40 would be used in the Highlands Region to combat sprawl and the  
41 depletion of water quality and quantity, as the region provides  
42 drinking water to 5.4 million State residents; and

43 **WHEREAS**, The federal government acknowledged the exceptional  
44 value of Highlands resources and the urgent need for their  
45 preservation in 2004 when Congress passed the Highlands  
46 Conservation Act which recognizes the importance of the water,  
47 forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources of

1 the Highlands Region, and the national significance of the region to  
2 the United States; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The current proposed route of the Pilgrim Pipeline crosses  
4 through 10 municipalities and critical drinking water supply  
5 watersheds in the Highlands Region, and many State residents in  
6 municipalities along the proposed route depend on ground water  
7 and public community water systems for their water supply and  
8 septic systems for waste disposal, and this project will impact  
9 groundwater quality and quantity and residents' septic fields along  
10 and adjacent to the right of way; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Many State residents depend on surface water originating  
12 from communities through which the oil pipelines will pass,  
13 including the Ramapo River Basin Aquifer System, which provides  
14 100 percent of the water for Mahwah, Ramsey, Oakland, Franklin  
15 Lakes, Allendale, Pompton Lakes and Wayne, and, during drought  
16 can supply 190 million gallons of water a day to the Wanaque  
17 Reservoir, which supplies 3.5 million people; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The PHMSA reports 280 significant incidents annually  
19 with oil pipelines, and if an incident were to occur along this  
20 proposed route, it could potentially impact the drinking water of  
21 millions of residents in New Jersey and New York; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The wise stewardship of the natural resources of the State  
23 of New Jersey requires protection of water supplies and other  
24 natural resources for generations to come; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Protection of the State's water supplies and resources is  
26 better accomplished by prevention of contamination and  
27 environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up  
28 contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;  
29 now, therefore,

30

31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
32 Jersey:

33

34 1. This House opposes the construction and operation of the  
35 proposed Pilgrim Pipeline and urges the United States Army Corps  
36 of Engineers, the New Jersey Department of Environmental  
37 Protection, the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and  
38 Planning Council, and any other federal, state, or local entity  
39 engaged in review of the Pilgrim Pipeline project to reject the  
40 project, and thereby prohibit its construction through New Jersey.

41

42 2. In addition, this House calls for a moratorium on any and all  
43 planning, surveying, and construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline  
44 through the State of New Jersey, because this project will traverse  
45 and negatively impact numerous significant natural resource areas  
46 of the Highlands Region.

