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ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE SET TO VOTE ON HYDROFRACKING/HORIZONTAL DRILLING BAN ON COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY

ALBANY, N.Y. (June 11, 2012) — Tonight, the Albany County Legislature will be voting on Resolution No. 47-b (“Prohibiting Hydrofracking and Horizontal Drilling on Property Owned by Albany County”), proposed by [Christopher T. Higgins](#), Albany County Legislator, at 6:30 p.m., legislative chambers, Albany County Courthouse (16 Eagle Street, Albany).

“With increasing uncertainty over the safety of the methods being used for extracting natural gas here in Albany County through hydrofracking and the impact it may have over drinking water for residents, it is imperative that our county takes this step on behalf of our constituents,” said Higgins.

The resolution calls for a moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing (better known as “hydrofracking”) and horizontal drilling on property owned by Albany County for at least two years. Moratoriums have been implemented in the towns of Berne and Rensselaerville and a full ban in the city of Albany.

Hydrofracking involves use of large amounts of water, mixed with chemicals and sand, at a high pressure through the use of drilling wells to pump into underground shale to release natural gas. The southern portions of Albany County are part of either the Marcellus shale play or Utica shale play.

The resolution is co-sponsored by County Legislators Mackey, Bullock, Clenahan, Steck, and Kinsch.

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