

PETITION

Warrant Article - Special Town Meeting

(No Less Than One Hundred Signatures)

We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Shrewsbury pursuant to G.L. Chapter 39, Section 10 request that the Board of Selectman place onto the next Special Town Meeting the following warrant article:

Article ____ : To see if the Town will vote to approve a resolution opposing any new or expanded pipelines carrying fracked gas in the Town of Shrewsbury and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Further, that the following motion be put before the Special Town Meeting

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to pass the following resolution opposing any new or expanded pipelines carrying fracked gas in the Town of Shrewsbury and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

WHEREAS, a proposed high pressure pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing (“fracked gas”), currently called the “West Boylston Lateral Pipeline” as part of the ‘Access Northeast’ project, of Spectra Energy / Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, would run through many communities in Central Massachusetts including Milford, Upton, Grafton, Sutton, Shrewsbury, Boylston, and West Boylston (affecting over 400 landowners in Shrewsbury);

WHEREAS, additional plans for other such new or expanded fracked gas pipelines have been proposed for other locations in the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, the New England governors previously proposed a utility bill tariff or tax to help pay for new pipeline construction, which would have required ratepayers to invest in more fossil fuel infrastructure, although the prior Massachusetts administration stepped back from that proposal;

WHEREAS, in addition to the inherent risks of high pressure gas pipelines - possible ruptures, fires, and explosions, and possible impacts to sensitive areas along the pipeline route - fracked gas may carry additional risks of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) chemicals; recognizing as well the added environmental burdens for communities that are the site of the fracking;

WHEREAS, there is a growing concern regarding the impact of methane, the main component of natural gas, on global climate change, from gas leaks at drilling sites and along pipelines, in addition to the impact of the carbon dioxide produced when the gas is burned;

WHEREAS, instead of increasing our dependency on fossil fuels like natural gas, we are better served by embracing and strengthening the Commonwealth’s commitments to combating global climate change through increased energy efficiency and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Shrewsbury has a direct interest in protecting public health, public land, and the environment in Worcester County, the Commonwealth, New England, and our shared world;

