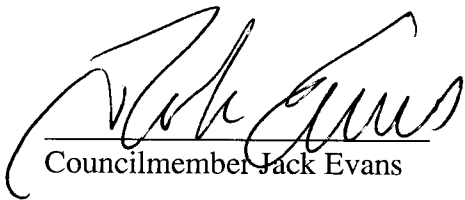
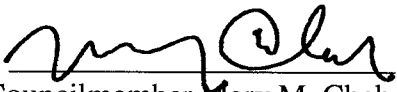


1 
2 Councilmember Jack Evans
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Councilmember Mary M. Cheh


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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9 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

10
11 _____
12
13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
14
15 _____
16
17

18 To declare the sense of the Council that the United States Forest Service should prohibit
19 horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest to
20 protect regional water quality and supply.
21

22 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
23 this resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council in Support of a Prohibition on
24 Fracking in the George Washington National Forest Resolution of 2014".
25

26 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

27 (1) The George Washington National Forest is located in the Potomac
28 River watershed and plays a vital role in protecting downstream water quality.

29 (2) The Potomac River is the sole source of water for the residents,
30 visitors, and workers of the District of Columbia.

31 (3) The United States Army Corps of Engineers Washington Aqueduct
32 draws water from the Potomac River and is responsible for producing drinking water that
33 meets water quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
34 (EPA) under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

35 (4) DC Water purchases water from the Washington Aqueduct and is
36 responsible for its delivery to the District, as well as complying with Safe Drinking Water
37 Act standards and monitoring water quality.

38 (5) The Marcellus Shale geological formation, a potential source of natural
39 gas that can be mined by horizontal hydraulic fracturing, lies underneath over half of the
40 George Washington National Forest.

41 (6) Mining by horizontal hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking,"
42 requires millions of gallons of water per well. This water is combined with sand and
43 numerous chemical additives and injected into wells to break up the shale and access
44 natural gas. Waste water from this process is often disposed of through underground
45 injection. This process has been linked to significant adverse environmental impacts,
46 including surface and drinking water contamination.

1 (10) The U.S. EPA is currently conducting a study of the impacts of
2 hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources, which will provide information and
3 answer questions for local, state and federal decision makers. The draft report is expected
4 to be released for public comment and peer review this year.

5 (11) The U.S. Forest Service is currently in the process of updating its
6 George Washington National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which will
7 direct natural resource management for the Forest for the next 10 – 15 years, including
8 the possibility of mining the Marcellus Shale by horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

9 (12) In October of 2011, Thomas P. Jacobus, General Manager of the
10 Washington Aqueduct, wrote a letter to Kenneth Landgraf, Acting Forest Supervisor of
11 the George Washington National Forest, strongly supporting a prohibition on horizontal
12 hydraulic fracturing for natural gas development in the George Washington National
13 Forest. In the letter, Mr. Jacobus stated that hydraulic fracturing in the George
14 Washington National Forest gave “great cause for concern about the potential for
15 degradation of the quality of our raw water supply as well as impact to the quantity of the
16 supply.”

17 (13) In September of 2013, George Hawkins, General Manager of DC
18 Water, wrote a letter to Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of
19 Agriculture, expressing concerns about allowing horizontal drilling in the George
20 Washington National Forest. In the letter, Mr. Hawkins stated: “Uncertainties exist about
21 the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the District’s source water and treatment process.
22 Changes in source water quality can directly affect our customers, including increased
23 costs for drinking water treatment, monitoring and compliance. . . . It is my hope that the
24 U.S. Forest Service will prohibit horizontal drilling in the George Washington National
25 Forest until it can be proven that the practice will not negatively impact water quality.”

26 (14) Numerous other counties, cities, and local and federal officials have
27 written to or filed comments with the U.S. Forest Service supporting the prohibition of
28 horizontal fracturing in the George Washington National Forest, including the U.S. EPA,
29 the National Park Service, Fairfax County Water Authority, U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and
30 Mark Warner, and Mayor Vincent Gray.

31
32 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the United States Forest Service should
33 prohibit horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest in its
34 upcoming Revised Land and Resource Management Plan to protect water quality and
35 supply in the Potomac River watershed.

36
37 Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit
38 copies of this resolution upon its adoption to the Secretary of the United States
39 Department of Agriculture, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, and the
40 Director of the District Department of the Environment.

41
42 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.