

RESOLUTION 2023-1

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY AGAINST CO2 PIPELINES AND THE SEQUESTRATION OF CO2 FOR ATLANTA TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS the elected officials of Atlanta Township do hereby oppose the construction of any CO2 Pipeline and/or the construction of CO2 sequestration wells and the CO2 sequestration in our township because CO2 Pipelines and CO2 sequestration are a threat to the health and safety of all residents of Atlanta Township, and

WHEREAS residents of Atlanta Township would be negatively impacted by living under the constant threat of a CO2 Pipeline leak and explosion, as was seen in Satartia, Mississippi, and the possible leak of CO2 from sequestration into the aquifer, and

WHEREAS residents of Atlanta Township would need to pay increased taxes to allow our fire and EMS department to buy electric vehicles that would be able to run during a CO2 leak, since CO2 crowds out oxygen and disables gas combustion engines, which is a burden to both taxpayers and emergency planners, and

WHEREAS The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced, on May 26, 2022, the agency's plan to initiate a new rulemaking process with a goal of strengthening its safety oversight of carbon dioxide (CO2) pipelines, and CO2 sequestration wells and storage as well as enforcing actions against Denbury Gulf Coast Pipelines for its CO2 pipeline failures in Satartia, Mississippi that caused the evacuation of 300 people and resulted in the hospitalization of nearly 50, thus confirming that existing regulations for such pipelines are inadequate to protect communities from dangerous pipeline failures and potential loss of life, and

WHEREAS, at a minimum, in light of the PHMSA creating new measures for CO2 Pipeline Safety, the Illinois Commerce Commission should not grant any CO2 pipeline the right to build in Illinois or grant permission for CO2 wells and CO2 sequestration until the new safety measures are finalized, and

WHEREAS, we as elected officials of Atlanta township and our elected officials in Logan County need time to review these new PHMSA measures and enact ordinances to protect our residents and ensure CO2 Pipelines and CO2 sequestration must adhere to both the PHMSA measures and any additional measures we find to be in the best interest of our residents' safety and general welfare, and

WHEREAS we the elected officials of Atlanta Township are responsible for the upkeep of all Township Roads, CO2 pipelines threaten drainage of farm fields which can cause standing water on our roads, and

WHEREAS our residents would likely experience reduced property values if they are forced to have a CO2 Pipeline through their property, or CO2 sequestration, as no reasonable person would choose to buy property with a CO2 Pipeline or near a CO2 Pipeline, or property with CO2 sequestration all other factors being equal, and

WHEREAS this reduction in property values and the potential loss of alternative retail, commercial, or other productive, tax-paying development along a CO2 Pipeline route or CO2 sequestration area will diminish the fiscal health of our Township tax base, and

WHEREAS as stewards of tax dollars and the public trust we oppose this entire CO2 Pipeline and CO2 sequestration scheme as a false and unproven method of helping the environment, and

WHEREAS the Federal tax dollars subsidizing this CO2 Pipeline and CO2 sequestration could be much better spent on more proven methods of reducing carbon dioxide emissions without the need to use Eminent Domain and put our Township residents at permanent risk of CO2 Pipeline leaks, or other hazards from CO2 sequestration stored beneath our farm ground.

Now, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the elected officials of Atlanta Township that we hereby oppose the construction and use of Eminent Domain for any CO2 Pipeline in Atlanta Township, or the sequestration of CO2 and urge Logan County and the Illinois Commerce Commission to join us in opposing CO2 pipelines and CO2 sequestration to protect the health and safety of our residents.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval as required by law.

PASSED this 14TH day of November 2023 at Atlanta Township, Logan County, Illinois by roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Julie Osborn – yes
Trustee Becky Brandt - yes
Trustee Georgia Green - yes
Trustee Charles Van Hoorn - yes
Trustee Amy Wertheim - yes

Julie Osborn, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:

Michelle Reed, Township Clerk