



Upper Delaware Scenic Byway

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Resolution 2011-01: Natural Gas Exploration In the Upper Delaware River Valley

WHEREAS, The majority portion of New York State Route 97 was legislatively designated as a component of the New York State Scenic Byways System on August 6, 2002 under a nomination as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway; *and*

WHEREAS, The Enhancement Concept for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (final corridor management plan, January 2002) expresses a vision to "highlight what is already an exceptional feature of the region's appeal to residents and visitors alike – the highway itself. The most significant and attractive aspects of the byway will continue to be its spectacular highway vistas, access to the Delaware River and its resources, and the uniqueness of the communities along the byway"; *and*

WHEREAS, Extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formations underlying much of the Upper Delaware River Valley is proposed, having commenced with the securing of leases to local mineral rights, and pending the finalization of regulations by New York State and the Delaware River Basin Commission to oversee this activity; *and*

WHEREAS, The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. non-profit organization, as managed by a board of representatives from the member municipalities, is tasked with protecting, promoting, and enhancing the designated byway route; *and*

WHEREAS, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. has aesthetic concerns over the potential visual intrusion impacts from this industrial activity and safety concerns that an increase in associated heavy traffic could interfere with safe travel along the highway, as well as cause a deterioration in New York State Route 97's physical condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Inc. urges New York State and the Delaware River Basin Commission to enact or exercise their respective regulatory authorities to:

- 1) Protect the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's viewshed; *and*
- 2) Minimize the conflicts that this industry's truck traffic could present to the existing recreational uses of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, *and*
- 3) Place the burden on natural gas developers to disallow any activities that will detract from the inherent scenic qualities that were the basis for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's designation.

Approved by a vote of 8-0 on February 28, 2011 on a motion by Town of Deerpark and second by Town of Delaware, with the Town of Delaware; Town of Cochection; Town of Tusten; Town of Highland; Town of Lumberland; Town of Deerpark; City of Port Jervis; and Sullivan County present.

Participating Municipalities: Village of Hancock, Towns of Delaware, Cochection, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland and Deerpark, and City of Port Jervis, in Delaware, Sullivan and Orange Counties, NY