

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER
COUNTY ATTORNEY

RESOLUTION

OPPOSING LIFTING THE BAN ON URANIUM MINING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THAT POSES AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT TO THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN AND TO THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA LIVING IN THE BASIN

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes that a healthy and sustainable environment is important to the citizens, the economy and the need for a supply of quality water in the Roanoke River Basin; and

WHEREAS, there is a proposed uranium mining and milling operation at Coles Hill in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, which would require lifting the current ban on such operations in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2011, the City of Virginia Beach released the findings of its study of impacts of proposed uranium mining and milling on its water supply coming from Lake Gaston; and

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia Beach study concluded that in the event of a mill tailing confinement cell failure, the tailings will be washed downstream and will significantly impact water quality in Kerr Lake Reservoir and Lake Gaston resulting in radiation levels in the water 10-20 times above the Safe Drinking Water Act levels; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the event modeled in the City of Virginia Beach study is rare but the magnitude of potential impacts on the Basin's eco-system and the communities is too great to leave it to chance; and

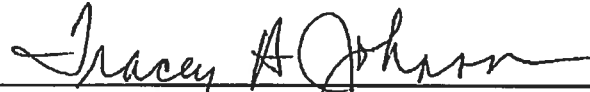
WHEREAS, because of the presence of the proposed uranium mill in the Basin that can be used to process ore mined at other mining sites in the Basin and/or through the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to Orange, Madison, Fauquier, Culpeper, Patrick, and Floyd Counties, the Basin that serves as a drinking water source for over one million people could face increased risks associated with uranium mining, milling and storage of radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, the best available scientific information indicates that the social, environmental, health and economic impacts of proposed uranium mining and milling in Virginia outweigh expected benefits to the Basin residents in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners goes on public record requesting that the Commonwealth of Virginia continue the ban on uranium mining.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a quorum of the Washington County Board of Commissioners was present at a meeting held on June 6, 2011 and the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of all members and opposed by none; and that said resolution has been duly recorded in the minutes and is in full force and effect.

ADOPTED, this the 6th day of June 2011.



Tracey A. Johnson, Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Julie J. Bennett
Washington County Clerk to the Board