

Res. 24-63

**Ford County Resolution asking for a Legislative Ban on Carbon Sequestration under Sole Source Aquifers:**

WHEREAS, drinking water aquifers are a public good and critical resource threatened by changing climate, pollution, and overconsumption; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA can designate an aquifer as a sole source aquifer if no reasonably available alternative drinking water sources exist should the aquifer become contaminated; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA has designated the Mahomet Aquifer as a sole-source aquifer, and may, upon petition, designate other aquifers in Illinois as sole source; and

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer provides drinking water for nearly 1 million people in Central Illinois, including many Ford County residents; and

WHEREAS, the business of sequestering carbon in saline aquifers is increasing due to the federal 45Q tax credit, which offers \$85 per metric ton of sequestered carbon; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Simon Sandstone saline aquifer, located below the freshwater Mahomet Aquifer, is an attractive target for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration; and

WHEREAS, new carbon sequestration projects propose to sequester carbon at unprecedented scale in Illinois, with projects proposing to store over one hundred times the amount of carbon already sequestered in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, as of this date, four of seven new carbon sequestration projects would inject CO<sub>2</sub> through and/or store it under the Mahomet Aquifer or its recharge areas; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that more carbon sequestration projects will be proposed in Illinois, and some may impact the Mahomet Aquifer in Ford County; and

WHEREAS, sequestered carbon can leak into the Mahomet Aquifer through injection well failures, faults, cap rock failures, or abandoned wells; and

WHEREAS, leaked carbon risks acidification of the Mahomet Aquifer, threatening to release heavy metals known to cause acute and chronic toxicity, liver, kidney, and intestinal damage, anemia, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, no guarantee exists that CO2 won't leak into the Mahomet Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Peoples Gas methane leak demonstrated the risk of storing buoyant fluids under the Mahomet Aquifer, requiring the expenditure of taxpayer funds to provide an alternate supply of water, and residents are still without replacement water; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Peoples Gas leak demonstrated the risk of relying on regulation and regulated entities to protect the Mahomet Aquifer and the inability of that regulatory system to find swift resolution for impacted users of the Mahomet Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Illinois that its only current sole source aquifer, the Mahomet Aquifer, and any future sole source aquifers are protected from water quality threats; and

WHEREAS, Ford County desires to protect the Mahomet Aquifer and all sole source aquifers, recognizing that no reasonably available alternative drinking water sources exist should these aquifers become contaminated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT: RESOLVED, that Ford County calls on the General Assembly and the Governor of Illinois to protect all existing and future designated sole-source aquifers in the state from potential contamination associated with injecting CO2 through and storage of CO2 under any sole source aquifer and its recharge areas, by passing, without delay, a Mahomet Aquifer Carbon Sequestration Ban.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution of Ford County at its regularly-scheduled Ford County Board meeting held on [enter date].

  
[add presiding official's signature]  
[add clerk or secretary's name]

ATTEST:  
  
