

RESOLUTION NO. 91-2020

**Borough of Sea Bright Urges the State of New Jersey to Hold
Fossil Fuel Companies Accountable for Flooding and Hurricane-Caused Damages**

Councilmember Leckstein introduced and offered the following resolution for approval; seconded by Councilmember Birdsall:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Sea Bright is located in Monmouth County with approximately 1400 residents along the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Sea Bright is greatly impacted by severe weather, flooding and related costs; and

WHEREAS, based on data from policy experts, economic analysts, energy modelers, data engineers, and environmental scientists, the 2019 Rhodium Report indicates that the sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004; and that New Jersey sea levels are rising by more than twice the global average; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide and in the Borough of Sea Bright 80% homes and businesses were destroyed and/or damaged; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the need for the Borough of Sea Bright to protect itself against future super storms, in October 2019, Executive Order 89 outlined a statewide resilience plan to address the state's vulnerability to severe weather events, precipitation, and wind damage that cause disastrous consequences for public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, it is known that in the United States carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) and NASA explains the "greenhouse effect" as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as "global warming;" and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies have knowingly produced, marketed, promoted, and sold fossil fuels over the last 50 years despite their contribution to global warming, without protecting or warning consumers about the dangers; and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to obscure the truth to protect their own assets; and several major fossil fuel companies are advocating for immunity from lawsuits over climate change-related costs and damages and trying to eliminate municipalities' power to bring suit or assert specific causes of action; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Sea Bright, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, do hereby urge Governor Murphy to hold the fossil fuel industry financially accountable for their role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis to ensure that the cost of adaptation and mitigation does not fall solely on the shoulders of taxpayers;

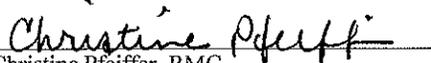
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the Attorney General of New Jersey.

Roll Call: Birdsall, Catalano, Keeler, Leckstein, Rooney, Schwartz
Yes Yes No Yes Yes No

March 16, 2020

CERTIFICATION

I, Christine Pfeiffer, Borough Clerk do hereby certify that the foregoing is a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Sea Bright, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, at a Council Meeting held on March 16, 2020.


Christine Pfeiffer, RMC