

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
LEGISLATION (S3545/A4696) “CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT”**

**WHEREAS**, the proposed "NJ Climate Superfund Act" (S3545 / A4696), pending before the New Jersey Legislature would impose liability on large fossil fuel companies for certain climate change related damages they caused instead of imposing all those costs on New Jersey taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has experienced deaths and billions of dollars in losses from storms linked to climate change. Hurricane Sandy costs are estimated to be over \$29 billion, along with 38 deaths, while Hurricane Ida caused about \$2 billion in costs and 30 deaths. From 1980–2024 (as of November 1, 2024), there have been 74 confirmed weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each to affect New Jersey. These costs do not include many others associated with climate change listed below; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of climate change on New Jersey municipalities include but are not limited to increases in the costs of property insurance, flooding (including clean ups, property buyouts and prevention), public health care costs (costs from injuries, heat, dealing with vector borne diseases and insurance), repair to critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewer systems and wastewater management, installing/maintaining air conditioning in schools, costs of dealing with forest fires and resulting property damages, increased costs of water purification from droughts or floods, seawall and other protections against ocean flooding, raising roads to prevent sunny-day flooding, potential lawsuits from residents, loss of tax revenue from destroyed properties, salt water invasion of aquifers, algal blooms, loss of recreation/tourism revenue, dealing with insect and other infestations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Climate Superfund Act seeks to hold "responsible parties," which is defined as large fossil fuel companies operating in New Jersey and were responsible more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions since 1994, liable for the past, current and future costs of funding climate change adaptation and resilience projects instead of placing the burden on New Jersey taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Treasurer will be authorized under this Act to determine the cost impacts of these greenhouse gas emissions on the State, including effects on public health, natural resources, biodiversity, agriculture, economic development, flood preparedness and safety, housing, and any other effect that the State Treasurer determines is relevant; and

**WHEREAS**, a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program will be established under this Act by the NJDEP to obtain compensatory payments from Responsible Parties and accept and collect payment from responsible parties and to disburse those funds for "climate change adaptation projects;" to project sponsors of climate change adaptation and resilience projects; and

**WHEREAS**, "climate change adaptation projects" include, but are not limited to: flood protection projects; home buyouts; upgrades of stormwater drainage systems; defensive upgrades to roads, bridges, railroads, and transit systems; preparation for, and recovery from, extreme weather events; preventive health care programs and providing medical care to treat illness or injury caused by the effects of climate change; relocation, elevation, or retrofits of sewage treatment plants and other infrastructure vulnerable to flooding; installation of energy efficient cooling systems and other weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits in public and private buildings, including schools and public housing, designed to reduce the public health effects of more frequent heat waves and forest fire smoke; upgrades to the electrical grid to increase stability and resilience, including the creation of self-sufficient microgrids; and response to toxic algae blooms, loss of agricultural topsoil, crop loss, and other climate-driven ecosystem threats to forests, farms, fisheries, and food systems; and

**WHEREAS**, any municipality in need of climate change adaptation and resilience projects will be able to apply for the funds raised by the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act would not preclude municipalities from filing and paying for their own lawsuits in order to obtain payment for damages caused by climate change emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act will make New Jersey more affordable by not saddling New Jersey taxpayers with the large and rapidly increasing costs of paying for climate damages.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey, in the interest of protecting its residents, businesses and institutions, join the North Brunswick Environmental Commission and strongly express their support for passage of the NJ Climate Superfund Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk shall forward this Resolution to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy; Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection; NJ Senate President Nicholas Scutari; NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; NJ Climate Superfund Act Senate sponsors Bob Smith, John McKeon; NJ Climate Superfund Act Assembly sponsors John Allen, Garnet Hall, Alixon Collazos-Gill.

**RECORDED VOTE**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBER</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
CHEIDID				
HUTCHINSON				
MEHTA				
DAVIS				
SOCIO				
GUADAGNINO				
MAYOR WOMACK				

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex, at its meeting held on February 18, 2025.

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Lisa Russo, Township Clerk