

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF HUDSON
RESOLUTION**

No. 658-10-2021

On Motion of Commissioner Obea
Seconded by Commissioner Walker

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO HOLD FOSSIL FUEL
COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND
RESILIENCE COSTS**

WHEREAS, Hudson County is the most populated county in New Jersey, with approximately 672,000 residents, and is home to many businesses, arts and educational institutions, and historical landmarks; and

WHEREAS, Hudson County and communities across the state of New Jersey are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures. The sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004. In New Jersey, sea levels are rising more than twice the global average; and

WHEREAS, upgrading New Jersey's stormwater, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems would cost \$40 billion over the next 20 years statewide.¹ During Hurricane Sandy, more than 10.9 billion gallons of sewage overflowed, and the costs of clean-up and remediation will continue to rise as storms increase²; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide. Hudson County will experience more hurricane-induced flooding than any other county in the state, and could incur up to \$660 million in annual damages from rising seas and hurricanes as a result of climate change³; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Jersey City and Hoboken, and the Township of Weehawken will spend \$230 million to protect their cities from devastating flooding during storms like Hurricane Sandy by 2022⁴; and

WHEREAS, in September 2021, New Jersey experienced the highest number of deaths nationwide from Hurricane Ida, with some parts of Hudson County facing almost nine inches of rainfall⁵; and

WHEREAS, Hudson County is projected to incur seawall construction costs at \$505 million by 2040 to protect against chronic flooding from rising seas⁶, and the State of New Jersey is estimated to spend \$5.4 billion in equipment to cool schools as a result of climate-driven extreme heat⁷; and

WHEREAS, 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 produced, marketed, promoted, and sold fossil fuels over the last 50 years, without protecting or warning consumers about the known dangers, and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to conceal and deny the truth to protect their own profits; and

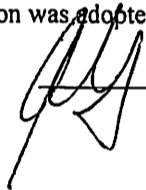
WHEREAS, 20 municipalities, six states as well as the District of Columbia, and an industry trade association throughout the United States have filed lawsuits against major oil and gas companies for the costs of adapting to climate damages those companies knowingly caused, and/or for defrauding consumers as to the risks those companies knew their products would cause; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hudson County Board of Commissioners, State of New Jersey, do hereby urge Governor Murphy to take legal action against the fossil fuel industry for their role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis to ensure that the cost of adaptation and resilience does not fall solely on the shoulders of taxpayers; and

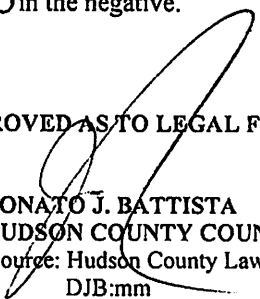
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abst	N.P.	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abst.	N.P.
Walker	/				Cedeño	✓			
Cifelli	/				Rodriguez	✓			
Kopacz	/				Vice-Chairperson Romano	✓			
Aponte-Lipski	/				Chairperson Vainieri	✓			
O'Dea	✓								

It is hereby certified that at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hudson held on the 20th day of Oct. A.D. 2021, the foregoing resolution was adopted with 9 members voting in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

 Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

BY:

DONATO J. BATTISTA
 HUDSON COUNTY COUNSEL
 Source: Hudson County Law Department
 DJB:mm