

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION NO. 20-257

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank is located in Monmouth County, New Jersey with approximately 12,000 residents along the Atlantic Ocean; and

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

WHEREAS, the sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004, with New Jersey sea levels rising by more than twice the global average; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide, and causing damage and destruction within the Borough of Red Bank; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the need for the Borough of Red Bank to protect itself against future super storms, in October 2019, Executive Order No. 89 outlined a statewide resiliency 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, 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

WHEREAS, 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Red Bank, 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 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.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yassin					
Councilwoman Triggiano					
Councilman Ballard					
Councilman Yngstrom					
Councilman Zipprich					
Councilwoman Horgan					

Dated: November 10, 2020