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DRAFT

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-01

Resolution Supporting Federal Funding for Investment in Bridges and other Critical Transportation Infrastructure

WHEREAS, bridges are vital infrastructure that connects communities and supports the unimpeded movement of goods and people; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inventory, more than one-third of all bridges in the United States, nearly 231,000 in total, need repairs; and

WHEREAS, more than 46,000 bridges in the United States are classified as structurally deficient; and

WHEREAS, structurally deficient bridges have significant deterioration or damage to load-carrying elements or waterway openings that cause intolerable traffic interruptions; and

WHEREAS, analysis by the Association of Road and Bridge Transportation Builders Association indicates that there are more than 178 million crossings on structurally deficient bridges each day; and

WHEREAS, the risk of bridge failure presents a major threat to public safety, mobility, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, bridges are significant infrastructure that serves regional and even national interests; and

WHEREAS, there are structurally deficient bridges located in every state and nearly every congressional district in the United States; and

WHEREAS, existing federal programs that can be used to fund bridge projects, such as BUILD, INFRA, and Federal-Aid Highway formula programs, are oversubscribed confronted with numerous competing priorities within the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee advanced bipartisan infrastructure legislation, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019, that would create a new bridge investment program to repair the nation's crumbling bridges; and

WHEREAS, the current surface transportation reauthorization bill expires in September 2020 and it is widely recognized that infrastructure investment will be a key component to help stimulate the nation's economy in the wake of the Coronavirus crisis,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, calls on Congress to include significant, dedicated

investment in bridges as a core part of surface transportation reauthorization or infrastructure package; and

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Alberto G. Santos
Mayor, Town of Kearny

Hon. Colleen Mahr
Mayor, Borough of Fanwood
Past President, NJLM

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2019-02

Resolution in Support of Federal Efforts to Promote Digital Equity

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore many of the long-standing social, economic, and racial disparities in American society; and

WHEREAS, these disparities are especially pronounced in the area of broadband Internet access and our nation's enduring digital divide; and

WHEREAS, in communities across the nation, the digital divide has been pronounced in the area of education as schools have closed and moved to online instruction and libraries have closed limiting their offerings to their digital collections; and

WHEREAS, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide has also been pronounced in the area of telemedicine, particularly in medically-underserved areas that most rely on telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the digital divide is as much an issue of affordability as it is access to infrastructure and the digital divide and its related disparities manifest themselves throughout our nation, in metropolitan areas and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), the Institute of Museum and Library Services ("ILMS"), and other federal agencies have used programs and funding from the CARES Act and other recently enacted coronavirus relief bills to address the digital divide; and

WHEREAS, most notably, the FCC issued a public notice confirming that community use of E-Rate-supported infrastructure is permitted during school and library closures; Launched its Keeping America Connected Campaign to prevent disconnections and late fees during the COVID-19 pandemic; and used \$200 million in CARES Act funding to launch the COVID-19 Telehealth Program and \$100 million from the Universal Service Fund to launch the Connected Care Pilot Program support telehealth programs; and

WHEREAS, IMLS partnered with the FCC to promote the use of \$50 million in CARES Act funding to address the digital divide via grants to schools and libraries for expanded digital network access, equipment, a technical support services; and

WHEREAS, there are many additional opportunities for the FCC to leverage CARES Act and other coronavirus relief funding to bolster existing broadband programs such as E-Rate (extending broadband funding for schools and libraries into student homes), the Healthcare Connect Fund (enable healthcare providers to use telehealth tools to monitor at-risk patients) and the Lifeline Program (direct subsidies to fund broadband for low-income households); and

WHEREAS, addressing the digital divide will be critical to promoting equal opportunity and building a robust and resilient post-pandemic economy and society,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of

Municipalities thanks Congress, the FCC, IMLS, and other federal agencies for their efforts to date to leverage and otherwise use relief funding to address the digital divide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the League urges Congress, the FCC, IMLS, and other federal agencies to robustly fund and otherwise bolster federal efforts to address the digital divide and lay the groundwork for an equitable, robust, and resilient post-pandemic economy and society; and

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Brian C. Wahler
Mayor, Piscataway
Past President, NJLM

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-03

**Preserving Local Public Rights-of-Way and Regulatory Authority to Most Effectively
Deploy 5G Broadband Access and Bridge the Digital Divide**

WHEREAS, mayors and other local government officials are committed to ensuring the digital infrastructure of tomorrow is safe, reliable, and accessible to all of the residents of their cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors and other local government officials have long advocated for universal access to reliable, high-speed broadband service - both wireline and wireless - as crucial for education, employment, economic development, and the provision of a variety of services necessary for success and progress in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, mayors and other local government officials believe that the timely deployment of 5G broadband networks will have significant implications for U.S. innovation, including in transportation, agriculture, healthcare, education, public safety, manufacturing, commerce, and the continued development of smart communities; and

WHEREAS, mayors and other local government officials recognize the increased importance of universal broadband access for education, health and business during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, mayors and local government officials are facing dwindling revenue and increasing demand for municipal services which has been amplified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, municipalities must balance competing interests for the use of the public rights-of-way, taking into account considerations for public safety; public utility services such as water, sewer, and electricity; the traveling public; environmental concerns; economic development; and maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, municipal government oversight of 5G broadband deployment is critical to ensure it is safe, equitable, and fiscally prudent, and local government officials have the most direct understanding of the needs of their communities and understand how best to implement policies that affect their citizens; and

WHEREAS, a number of localities have negotiated and entered into agreements with wireless providers to deploy 5G broadband service in their communities, including provisions to bridge the digital divide; and

WHEREAS, some members of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), Congress, and state legislatures have wrongly characterized this balancing act among competing interests for the public rights-of-way and maintenance of local authority as a barrier to 5G deployment and, instead, have put the interests of national corporations ahead of the needs of communities by imposing on municipalities a one-size-fits-all policy which preempts existing state and local policies; and

WHEREAS, this has led to FCC actions and proposals aimed at restricting local authority over the public rights-of-way, imposing shot clocks on the consideration of siting applications, and limiting the rents and fees municipalities can charge private companies for access to those rights-of-way and public infrastructure, without any assurances that broadband infrastructure will be deployed where it is most needed, thus potentially harming consumers and municipalities alike; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the FCC adopted declaratory rulings and orders in its Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment proceeding, which limit the ability of local governments to regulate public property and rights-of-way (e.g., attachments to street lights, utility poles, public buildings), obtain a fair market value for private commercial use of public property, and ensure equal service to the community, while also imposing "shot clocks" that render it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain community input, while setting unreasonable timetables for local governments to conduct inspections necessary to protect public safety and ensure aesthetic protections for small cell wireless installations; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the FCC adopted a Third Report and Order in its Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 proceeding, which adopted a new reading of the federal Cable Act's "franchise fee" definition that would, among other things, cost local governments millions of dollars in reduced franchise and other right-of-way fees and threaten the future of cable franchise access channel and institutional network requirements; and

WHEREAS, the FCC's 2019 order is subject to pending appeals by local governments in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the FCC adopted a declaratory ruling and notice of proposed rulemaking construing Section 6409(a) of the 2012 Spectrum Act, actions that will place still more new obligations on local governments and further constrain their ability to review applications to enlarge or modify wireless facilities; and

WHEREAS, mayors and local governments have had to incur, and are continuing to incur, extraordinary legal costs contesting these repeated FCC actions intruding on municipalities'

ability to manage and receive fair compensation for private commercial use of public property and to exercise their longstanding authority to regulate land use; and

WHEREAS, the FCC's continuing changes in the rules it imposes on local governments require constant revision of ordinances and procedures, diverting time and resources from essential work such as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the FCC's repeated and sweeping imposition of new regulations on local governments threatens cities' continued fiscal and staffing ability to provide essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the FCC's sweeping actions prevent local governments from being good stewards of public property, safety, and welfare; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities respectfully urges all levels of the Federal government and New Jersey's legislature take action to protect municipal authority to balance the needs of all parties, including small cell access to the public rights-of-way, while maintaining municipal authority to retain control over their local rights-of-way and to receive fair-market compensation for access to all public assets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress and New Jersey State Legislature should recognize that universal access to affordable broadband cannot be achieved through deregulation and preemption of local authority, but will require partnerships and robust and dedicated funding to accelerate universal broadband deployment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress should preserve the respect for municipal authority found in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the New Jersey State Legislature should take action to ensure the same, such that industry working collaboratively with local governments might achieve our shared goal of ensuring affordable broadband access for every New Jersey resident and American, facilitating universal service, and closing the digital divide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities should oppose any new regulation or legislation that would limit, in any way, local government oversight and authority regarding the deployment of broadband in communities and the fees that local governments may impose on private commercial businesses installing permanent facilities on local public property; and

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Brian C. Wahler
Mayor, Piscataway
Past President, NJLM

DRAFT

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-04

Resolution Urging Support of Community Recovery Efforts in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic by Enacting Reforms and Improvements to Opportunity Zones

WHEREAS, COVID-19 and the economic downturn has caused widespread unemployment and business closures, exposed structural disparities in communities across the country, and rapidly depleted the coffers of state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, as Congress shifts its focus from crisis response to economic recovery, it must account for lessons learned from the last economic recovery a decade ago, namely an uneven recovery that bypassed the most distressed communities; and

WHEREAS, as one response to growing geographic inequality, Congress created Opportunity Zones, a new tool to incentivize private capital into low-income, high-poverty, and investment-deprived neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Opportunity Zones has fostered greater interaction between mayors, economic development professionals, community stakeholders, and investors with unique insights into the distinctive needs of disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Zones incentive has been used to support community growth-oriented projects and to encourage entrepreneurship, improve quality of life, and create economic opportunities for local families; and

WHEREAS, Mayors play a leading role in defining local priorities and attracting private investment to projects that will strengthen the communities they represent; and

WHEREAS, cities and communities must take a long-term view to attract community-driven investment in Opportunity Zones by updating local permitting and zoning, aligning federal and non-federal incentives, and organizing dedicated partners supported by local leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Zones statute does not require the Federal government to collect data and report on investments in Opportunity Zones; and

WHEREAS, improvements to the Opportunity Zones policy - such as increased reporting requirements pertaining to the activities of Qualified Opportunity Funds, an extension of the benefit deadline, and federal support to build local capacity and technical assistance - are critical to the success and durability of the tax incentive,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of

Municipalities calls on Congress, to improve upon the Opportunity Zones statute by strengthening reporting requirements for the U.S. Treasury Department to collect data on the number of opportunity funds created and the impact the funds are having on underserved communities; extend the timeframe for investments in Opportunity Zones to encourage greater market participation during this period of deep economic need and uncertainty; and support local governments through technical assistance and capacity building to help enable more communities to attract high impact investments and economic activity; and

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsors

Hon. Alberto G. Santos
Mayor, Town of Kearny

Hon. Paul Medany
Mayor, Township of Deptford

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-05

Resolution Supporting the Development and Expansion of Waste and Recycling Markets

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility and well-established authority to manage the collection and disposal of waste, including meeting ambitious waste reduction and diversion targets and increasing reuse and recycling; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Recycling Economic Information Report found that, in a single year, reuse and recycling activities in the United States accounted for 757,000 jobs, \$36.6 billion in wages and \$6.7 billion in tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has exposed a key national vulnerability in recycling markets that need to be addressed in order to protect public health in our waste disposal and processing, and stabilize a critical workforce; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 crisis, cities nationwide were already facing tough decisions as many countries have either eliminated or severely limited their imports of recyclables and the U.S. lacks sufficient recycling infrastructure and markets to process our own supply; and

WHEREAS, sanitation departments nationwide previously generated millions of dollars in revenue from the sale of recyclables, current market conditions require municipalities to pay millions of dollars to process and market recyclables - a pre-COVID-19 issue that has been exacerbated by the current crisis; and

WHEREAS, many waste and recycling sorting facilities have either reduced or stopped operations during the COVID-19 crisis to ensure the public health of its workforce; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has further revealed our vulnerabilities with an increase in U.S. demand for some recycled materials in the manufacturing supply chain, and has negatively impacted the production of critical items like water bottles, toilet paper, and cardboard boxes, which are often produced using recycled material; and

WHEREAS, investing in local waste and recycling processing and collection methods will create good jobs, decrease costs for municipalities, residents and businesses, and can create new markets for reuse and recovery of materials; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in regional recycling facilities will have a significant impact on economic recovery and avoid further public health risk from insufficient waste disposal methods,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities supports the development and expansion of municipal recycling infrastructure, including upgrades to existing facilities and development of alternative collection and processing methods and a federal investment in such infrastructure and the workforce necessary to implement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the development and expansion of facilities and processes should incorporate innovative research and technology including reduced and sustainable packaging, carbon-free transportation as well as recovery methods for food waste and other compostable materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the development and deployment of such efforts be led by local government and recognize the priority of waste reduction and building a domestic circular supply chain that is localized and resilient to future economic challenges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities encourages the federal government to give incentives to businesses and manufacturers to work with local municipalities to utilize the products that they collect and recycle in order to encourage products to be reused in a sustainable manner.

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Colleen Mahr
Mayor, Borough of Fanwood
Past President, NJLM

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-06

Resolution Supporting Clean Energy Jobs Through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program

WHEREAS, energy challenges before municipalities, including sustained dependence on energy supplies from other areas of the nation and the world, uncertainty about reliability and costs as climatic events escalate, and how to cost-effectively accelerate energy efficiency and local renewable energy development, must be addressed to secure our future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, the pace of federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is now inadequate to support municipal and other efforts to confront these challenges which must be addressed to maintain and expand the nation's competitive position in the global economy, build livable and sustainable communities, and further the job and economic development benefits of a new technology energy economy; and

WHEREAS, the transportation and building sectors are the leading sources of energy consumption and associated emissions in the U.S., areas where sustained local action in these two sectors and others have shown that increased efficiency and renewable energy use can move cities toward less carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy initiatives, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel-efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, these successful municipal initiatives could be expanded dramatically and yield much greater results if state and federal partnerships were strengthened to support and accelerate such local action; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established the right mechanism to support such local efforts when it authorized \$10 billion in funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program at the U. S. Department of Energy, which included providing for formula grants directly to municipalities, counties, and states to invest in new energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies; and

WHEREAS, municipalities benefited from one-time funding of \$2.8 billion that was made available in 2009 to support such local efforts, with the U.S. Conference of Mayors documenting the many benefits of this investment in 2014 mayoral survey, "Successful City Initiatives with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funding"; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER), traditional energy and energy efficiency sectors in 2019 employed approximately 6.8 million Americans or 4.6 percent of a workforce of roughly 149 million; and

WHEREAS, the USEER reports that the energy efficiency sector produced the highest number of new jobs in the energy sector, employing 2.3 million people in the design, installation, and manufacture of energy efficiency products and services; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency and conservation programs have been disrupted and the workforce has been reduced due to COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, economic recovery from the pandemic will require investment in clean energy jobs requiring the reeducation of the workforce through community college and other institution classes, with a focus on individuals who have been removed from the workforce due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities calls on Congress to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities calls on Congress to reauthorize and appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities calls on Congress to appropriate funding and make available grants to provide educational and job training opportunities in the fields of energy efficiency and conservation, with priority given to those whose jobs have been permanently disrupted or eliminated due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Gayle Brill Mittler
Mayor, Highland Park

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-07

Resolution Supporting Local Control of Water Infrastructure Projects

WHEREAS, local officials share a strong commitment to ensuring that our citizens have access to clean and reliable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems; and

WHEREAS, local officials have an obligation to protect public health, to use limited public resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, local public and private engineers and water professionals also have an obligation to protect public health, to use limited public resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, there are efforts at the federal level and within the State of New Jersey that would undermine these goals, supersede engineering judgment and impose new mandates on local communities; and

WHEREAS, the design of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems is an inherently local process and local communities are in the best position to select infrastructure materials, as each community's needs are unique; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure materials all have different service lives, durability, reliability, economic, health and safety characteristics, and engineers and communities need to retain local control to select infrastructure materials based on factors important to the local community; and

WHEREAS, communities should remain free to adopt system-wide best management practices and uniform design specifications in the development and maintenance of their water systems to maximize efficiency and control costs; and

WHEREAS, restricting local control increases costs, interferes with sound engineering judgment, limits the ability of communities to manage their systems as efficiently as possible and delays projects,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities supports local control of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems and opposes federal and state policies that promote material preferences or otherwise undermine local autonomy for local water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems, and

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Alberto G. Santos
Mayor, Town of Kearny

DRAFT

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-08

Resolution Urging the Waiver of Cost Share Requirements for COVID-19 Federal Aid

WHEREAS, many New Jersey municipalities are anticipating major budget shortfalls this year, and most will be faced with the difficult decision to cut programs and lay off staff to balance budgets due to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, municipalities face budget shortfalls of millions of dollars arising from this crisis that are expected to continue into future fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is authorized to increase the federal cost-share to 100 percent for emergency work, including direct federal assistance "if warranted by the needs of a disaster" (44 CFR, 206.47(d)); and

WHEREAS, the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 is hurting municipalities across the United States at an unprecedented scale; and

WHEREAS, the approach to combating COVID-19 is locally executed, state-managed and federally supported; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey municipalities are effectively reducing the spread of COVID-19 using expensive measures including testing for COVID-19, providing equipment such as personal protective equipment and ventilators, contact tracing, shutting businesses to reduce the spread, enforcing social distancing requirements, helping affected businesses and persons, and helping hospitals meet higher surge capacities; and

WHEREAS, budget shortfalls threaten these and other responses,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities urges the Federal Administration to waive all cost-share requirements for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 New Jersey State Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Paul Medany
Mayor, Township of Deptford

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2019-09

Resolution Requesting the State of New Jersey to Provide Additional Funding for Dredging Projects

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is responsible for the maintenance and dredging of State navigation channels; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey claims ownership of all tidally flowed waterways unless a grant has been issued; and

WHEREAS, recreational and commercial boating contribute to the local and regional economy, provide jobs and are a major source of enjoyment in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, many navigable channels in the State of New Jersey require maintenance and dredging which are not State navigation channels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities does hereby request that the State of New Jersey provide additional funding to cover the cost of dredging in both State and non-State navigation channels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, all members of the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governors and Lieutenant Governors of New Jersey.

Sponsor(s)

Hon. Gary Giberson
Mayor, City of Port Republic

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2019-10

Resolution Compelling Local Police Departments to Concentrate on Local Community Relations and Development of Public Safety Demands

WHEREAS, serving and protecting our cities and communities is the first and only duty of police work; and

WHEREAS, local police departments and personnel were hired with the intent to serve and protect local communities; and

WHEREAS, when police start their careers they are sworn to protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, the residents and taxpayers demand and deserve the full attention of police to protect our communities; and

WHEREAS, recent issues have again brought to forefront the responsibilities and duties of police departments in every community; and

WHEREAS, most police departments are highly trained with regard to safety protocols, firearm training and use of force and these qualities are all directly related to protecting communities; and

WHEREAS, it has come to light in recent examinations of police departments that some departments are deviating from their sole purpose and from what taxpayers demand, namely with the concentration increasingly shifting to extra duty work and outside employment; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of trained professionals whose sole duty and business is to direct the flow of traffic and keep work zones safe and these companies are not utilized and/or are underused by utility companies across the state to properly set up and man work traffic zones; and

WHEREAS, it should be mandated that companies doing road work first use trained professional businesses to keep workers safe and therefore free up police cars and personnel to do their sworn duty of serving and protecting the citizens and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the fact that these extra duty details have evolved in to enormous money making details for patrolman, we must also recognize that utility companies are paying huge amounts of rate payer dollars for patrolman to park in work zones when this duty should be prescribed to companies who hire local residents and are trained to provide this service.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities urges the Legislature to form a committee to examine the cost expenditures, the cost savings, the wear and tear on equipment, the hours worked and every aspect of this issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, all members of the New Jersey State Legislature, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of

Transportation, Commissioner of Department of Community Affairs, and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey.

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Sponsor(s)

Hon. Paul Medany
Mayor, Township of Deptford

Co-Sponsor(s)

Hon. Gayle Brill Mittler
Mayor, Highland Park

DRAFT

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-11

Resolution Urging the Governor and Attorney General to Pursue Legal Action Against Fossil Fuel Companies for Damages Caused by Climate Change.

WHEREAS, twenty-three municipalities and states across the country have filed lawsuits against companies that produce, promote, market, and profit from the sale of fossil fuels under public nuisance and other torts, product liability claims, and/or consumer protection claims; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies have produced, promoted, marketed, and sold massive quantities of fossil fuels, primarily oil and natural gas, despite knowing that the combustion and use of fossil fuels emit greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, and these companies have also known for decades that greenhouse gas pollution accumulates and remains in the atmosphere for up to hundreds of years, where it traps heat and causes the temperature to rise, a process commonly referred to as “climate change”; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies continue to this day to produce, promote, market, and sell massive amounts of fossil fuels and plan to continue doing so for decades into the future; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all industrial emissions of greenhouse gases since the 1750s can be traced to just 90 fossil fuel and cement producers, and more than half of all industrial emissions since 1988 can be traced to 25 producers, with 90 percent of emissions since 1988 being attributable to combustion of the fossil fuels that the companies produce and sell, rather than emissions from their own operations; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies knew decades ago that the fossil fuel products they produce and sell were altering the atmosphere and would cause dire environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies knew that averting dangerous climate change required reducing the use of their fossil fuel products, and they were warned by industry scientists in stark terms that fossil fuel use risked “catastrophic” harm from climate change over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies and their representatives knew that reductions in fossil fuel usage would result in the immediate problem being considerably eased, questioned the long-term future of fossil fuel use, and discussed internally the technical implications of energy source changeover; and

WHEREAS, the past and ongoing conduct of fossil fuel companies causes and exacerbates climate change and all of its impacts, including higher temperatures, longer and more severe heat waves, extreme precipitation events, including heavy downpours, rising sea levels, and other severe and irreversible harms; and

WHEREAS, any corporation that makes a product that causes severe harm when used as intended should shoulder the costs of abating that harm; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has already suffered damages from climate change, including inundation, erosion, and regular tidal flooding of its property, and faces further imminent threats to its property, its infrastructure, and the health and safety of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, and its residents, will continue to see additional harms and damages from climate change in the coming decades, harms related to damage from more intense superstorms and other extreme weather events, additional flooding and coastal erosion, more severe heatwaves and associated increases to energy and medical costs, increased medical costs associated with projected increases in childhood asthma rates, increased volatility in agriculture and aquaculture yields, and additional costs associated with responding to and mitigating the calamitous impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey should take all appropriate legal action to protect the State from climate change impacts by shifting costs associated with climate change back onto the companies who knew their actions were contributing to climate change and its dangerous impacts, but continued to produce, promote, market, and sell fossil fuels;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey League of Municipalities urges the Governor and the Attorney General to pursue appropriate legal action against fossil fuel companies, in order to shift the past and present costs associated with the damages caused by climate change onto the companies that have created those damages and perpetrated fraud on New Jerseyans; and

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 New Jersey Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsors

Hon. Colleen Mahr
Mayor, Borough of Fanwood
Past President, NJLM

Hon. Laurie Huryk
Council Member, Township of Toms River

Hon. Jason Cilento
Mayor, Borough of Dunellen

Hon. Brandon Bernier
Council Member, City of Roselle

Hon. John Weber
Council President, Borough of Bradley Beach

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-12

In Appreciation of League Senior Legislative Analyst Jon Moran

WHEREAS, in 1986, Jon Moran joined the staff of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, having earned his degree from St. Joseph's University and later an M.A. in Political Theory from Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS, over the next thirty four years, Mr. Moran served as a key member of the League's Legislative team, working with Federal representatives from New Jersey and coordinating the General Legislation Committee within the League Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career with the League, Mr. Moran has been a an invaluable resource to members and staff alike, keeping a watchful eye on issues such as Energy Tax Receipts and always striving to help local governments get the funding they deserve. His work behind the scenes writing speeches, blogs, and informative materials represented the staff at their best; and

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2020, Jon Moran will retire after 34 years of dedicated and faithful service to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the service of Jon Moran has been distinguished, honorable and benefitted generations of local elected and appointed officials, as well the as the taxpayers they serve.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, that we do extend our sincere appreciation and wishes for continued success in all future endeavors to Jon Moran, and his entire family and a copy of this resolution transmitted to him.

Sponsors

Hon. James J. Perry, Sr.
Committeeman, Hardwick Twp.
President, NJLM

Hon. Janice Kovach
Mayor, Clinton Town
1st Vice President, NJLM

Hon. William J. Chegwiddden
Mayor, Wharton
2nd Vice President, NJLM

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-13

In Appreciation of Former League Executive Director Michael Darcy

WHEREAS, in 1990, Michael J. Darcy joined the staff of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, over the next two decades, Mr. Darcy held progressive staff positions in most departments, prior to serving for over two decades as Assistant Executive Director, and culminating in his appointment as League Executive Director on July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as Executive Director, Mr. Darcy managed the broad spectrum of programs and services for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, which represents all of the State's 565 municipalities and a membership of over 13,000 elected and appointed municipal officials. These services include, but are not limited to, the monthly magazine, New Jersey Municipalities, seminars and educational workshops on a wide range of subjects, numerous survey documents, almanacs, directories, legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of municipal governments and the largest annual municipal conference in the country which, attracts nearly 20,000 registrants; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, Michael J. Darcy retired after 30 years of dedicated and faithful service to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, and was succeeded by Michael Cerra, who himself served the League for over two decades, the last five years as Assistant Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, the service of Michael J. Darcy has been distinguished, honorable and benefitted generations of local elected and appointed officials, as well the as the taxpayers they serve.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, that we do extend our sincere appreciation and wishes for continued success in all future endeavors to Michael J. Darcy, and his entire family and a copy of this resolution transmitted to him.

Sponsors

Hon. James J. Perry, Sr.
Committeeman, Hardwick Twp.
President, NJLM

Hon. Janice Kovach
Mayor, Clinton Town
1st Vice President, NJLM

Hon. William J. Chegwiddden
Mayor, Wharton
2nd Vice President, NJLM

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution No. 2020-14

In Appreciation of League President James J. Perry, Committeeman, Hardwick

WHEREAS, the Honorable James J. Perry, Committeeman of Hardwick, is completing his term as the President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, President Perry's service to the League has exemplified all that is good about the high-minded goals and objectives of the League and its service programs; and

WHEREAS, President Perry is an articulate voice on a host of issues important to municipal interests, such as property tax relief funding, enabling management reforms and new tools to reduce costs and improve efficiencies, including public-private partnerships, and resources for those battling substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, President Perry served as a spokesman for mayors all over New Jersey, carrying their concerns to the Administration and Legislative Leaders, and working with all interested parties in establishing partnerships that will better serve New Jersey citizens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service to his constituents and to the League, President Perry has also been in public service for nearly three decades; starting with his appointment to the Hardwick Environmental Committee; to his 20-year membership on Planning Board and his tenure as Mayor of Hardwick, President Perry has treated public service as a calling to improve his community and his State; and

WHEREAS, the League and the municipal community at large have been well guided and inspired by the leadership of President Perry;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, on the 17th day of November 2016, do extend to President Perry sincere appreciation for years of dedicated administration, good counsel and untiring efforts to improve local government in New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that sincere wishes for continued success in all future endeavors be extended to President Perry and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted herewith to him.

Sponsors

Hon. Janice Kovach
Mayor, Clinton Town
1st Vice President, NJLM

Hon. William J. Chegwiddden
Mayor, Wharton
2nd Vice President, NJLM