

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-0018-24
PROPOSED BY: ACCLAMATION

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(a)
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 3:2-29(B)

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

WHEREAS, Essex County is one of the most populated counties in New Jersey, with over 860,000 residents, and is home to many businesses, arts and educational institutions, and historical landmarks; and

WHEREAS, Essex 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. 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 increase; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide. Essex County will experience more hurricane-induced flooding and could incur millions of dollars in annual damages from rising seas and hurricanes because of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in September 2021, New Jersey experienced the highest number of deaths nationwide from Hurricane Ida, with some parts of Essex County receiving over eight inches of rainfall; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is estimated to spend \$5.4 billion in equipment to cool schools as a result of climate-driven extreme heat; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Commissioners, 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 the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Lieutenant Governor, Essex County's representatives in Congress, the members of the Essex County delegations in the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly, and to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

Approved as to form and legality

Commissioner Counsel

Michael J. Paskauskas

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner
Second by Commissioner

Mercado
Johnson

Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
COOPER	✓				MERCADO	✓			
GILL				✓	POMARES, V.P.	✓			
GRAHAM	✓				SEBOLD	✓			
JOHNSON	✓								
LUCIANO				✓	RICHARDSON, PRES.	✓			

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was (✓) adopted () defeated () tabled by roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on Feb 9, 2022

Is Publication Required () Yes () No

Date Published _____

Wayne L. Richardson

Wayne L. Richardson, President