

## RESOLUTION 2024-251

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

**WHEREAS**, multiple international firms have received state approval to construct offshore wind farms as close as nine and one-half miles off the coast of Ocean County; and

**WHEREAS**, local residents, business and tourism leaders, elected officials and environmental groups have expressed grave concerns about the impact of these wind turbines on the local environment and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, these concerns include the effects wind turbines may have on migratory birds and sea mammals, such as the North American Right Whale, and on the commercial fishing industry's vital offshore fishing grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, residents and business owners have expressed fear that this industrial development and the resulting visual pollution just off the Long Branch Island coast will negatively impact tourism and local property values; and

**WHEREAS**, Ocean County's 44 miles of white sand beaches and related shore areas are the centerpiece of the tourism trade and play a vital role in Ocean County's economy, creating thousands of jobs annually and generating approximately \$7 billion in revenue for the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, leaders of New Jersey's \$2.5 billion annual fishing industry have said the sprawling wind farms will have a detrimental impact on commercial fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, a Rutgers University study concluded the wind turbines could increase commercial fishing costs and possibly block vital fishing grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the wind turbines have raised concerns of many environmentalists who question if the recent increase in whale and dolphin deaths along the New Jersey Coast and the Eastern Seaboard could be the result of sonar and other surveys being conducted prior to the wind farm construction; and

**WHEREAS**, similar economic and environmental concerns have been raised by neighboring coastal counties; and

**WHEREAS**, further study is necessary concerning the high-voltage electrical mainline connecting the windmills to the power grid, which will pass directly under the Barnegat Bay and could have a negative impact on the fragile bay and surrounding environments, including Island Beach State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Barnegat Township Committee recognizes the importance of pursuing new and clean energy sources, it also acknowledges the many serious objections, concerns and unanswered questions raised by residents, environmentalists and government and business leaders regarding these proposed windfarms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,** joins with Congressman Chris Smith and Congressman Jeff Van Drew, our local municipalities and neighboring coastal counties in opposing the construction of wind turbines off the New Jersey and Ocean County coast and again requests that the Federal Government and State of New Jersey implement a moratorium on offshore wind energy projects until all concerns are fully addressed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District offices, United States Representatives Chris Smith and Jeff Van Drew, each New Jersey county, the Ocean County Mayors Association and all Ocean County Mayors.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Donna M. Manno Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat at their regular meeting held on the 2nd day of July 2024, in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey.

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Donna M. Manno, RMC  
Municipal Clerk