

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 139

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 1997

**By Assemblymen MORAN, CONNORS, Cottrell, Malone,
Holzapfel and Wolfe**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** strongly opposing the discharge of raw sewage
2 by the City of New York into the East river or any other waters.
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4 **WHEREAS**, The City of New York has recently proposed to discharge
5 approximately 140 million gallons per day of untreated sewage over a four-
6 day period, for a total of about 560 million gallons, into the East river while
7 the city conducts repairs at a Manhattan sewage pumping station; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Proper notice of this egregious discharge was not given to either
9 the State of New Jersey or, apparently, the Interstate Sanitation
10 Commission; and
11 **WHEREAS**, If allowed, the discharge, which amounts essentially to the total
12 waste production for the entire lower third of Manhattan, could drift as far
13 south as the Navesink river in Monmouth county, New Jersey, potentially
14 resulting in at least the temporary closure of about 25,000 acres of shellfish
15 beds in New Jersey waters, delivering a major blow to consumer
16 confidence in the quality of New Jersey seafood, and significantly damaging
17 New Jersey's valuable and vital shore tourism industry; and
18 **WHEREAS**, This proposed discharge would drag the region back to the period
19 just a few decades ago, before the Nation's environmental awareness had
20 been raised, when water pollution went essentially unregulated, unchecked,
21 and unchallenged, resulting in horrendous environmental degradation, the
22 ecological and economic repercussions of which are still being felt even to
23 this day; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Although the Governor of New York and the Mayor of the City
25 of New York, in response to strong protests lodged by the State of New
26 Jersey, concerned citizens, and various environmental organizations, have
27 agreed to postpone the raw sewage discharge pending preparation of an
28 environmental assessment of the project to determine its effect on the
29 environment and the natural resources of the States of New York and New
30 Jersey, once that assessment is completed the City of New York
31 nevertheless could still decide to press forward with the discharge; now,
32 therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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3 1. This House strongly opposes the discharge of any raw sewage by the
4 City of New York into the East river or any other waters for any purpose.

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6 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
7 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted
8 to the Governor of New York, the Mayor and City Council of the City of
9 New York, the Interstate Sanitation Commission, the Region II Administrator
10 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of New
11 Jersey, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of
12 Environmental Protection.

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STATEMENT

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17 This resolution would express the sentiment of the General Assembly that
18 it is strongly opposed to the discharge of any raw sewage by the City of New
19 York into the East river or any other waters for any purpose. The City of New
20 York has recently proposed to discharge about 140 million gallons per day of
21 untreated sewage over a four-day period, for a total of about 560 million
22 gallons, into the East river while the city conducts repairs at a Manhattan
23 sewage pumping station. If allowed, the discharge, which amounts essentially
24 to the total waste production for the entire lower third of Manhattan, could
25 drift as far south as the Navesink river in Monmouth county, New Jersey,
26 potentially resulting in at least the temporary closure of about 25,000 acres of
27 shellfish beds in New Jersey waters, delivering a major blow to consumer
28 confidence in the quality of New Jersey seafood, and significantly damaging
29 New Jersey's valuable and vital shore tourism industry.

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35 Opposes proposed discharge of raw sewage by New York City into East
river.