

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 89

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 6, 1996

By Assemblymen DeCROCE and DiGAETANO

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging support for proposed federal legislation
2 to provide for cost-sharing for land-based and confined aquatic facilities
3 for the disposal of dredged material.

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5 **WHEREAS**, The removal of sand, silt and mud, also referred to as dredged
6 material, from navigation channels and ship berths in the port area of
7 northern New Jersey and New York City must be performed on a regular
8 basis to ensure the continued economic viability of the shipping and trade
9 industry, which creates more than 200,000 direct and indirect jobs,
10 provides more than \$20 billion in regional economic benefits and generates
11 salaries and wages in excess of \$5 billion per year; and

12 **WHEREAS**, It must be recognized that, while the economic importance of
13 dredging is significant, the dredged material is often contaminated with
14 harmful and dangerous substances which cannot be directly disposed of by
15 ocean dumping; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Under current federal law the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
17 may be used to provide the federal share of the costs of dredging federal
18 navigation channels, but there is no provision for sharing the cost of
19 disposal on land or in a confined aquatic disposal facility, which would
20 assist in providing options for the disposal of contaminated dredged
21 materials from the northern New Jersey and New York City port area; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Congressman Robert Franks of the Seventh Congressional District
23 has introduced a bill in Congress entitled the "Port Revitalization Act of
24 1996," which allows the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to be used for
25 the costs of providing land-based and confined aquatic facilities for the
26 disposal of dredged material, including the cost of diking and the cost of
27 applying dredged material to beneficial uses, and the other improvements
28 necessary for the proper disposal and decontamination of dredged
29 materials, as well as the costs of the operation and maintenance of such
30 disposal facilities; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The proposed federal legislation will enable the Harbor
32 Maintenance Trust Fund, which reportedly has a current estimated balance
33 of \$600 million, to be used to defray the costs of perhaps the most serious
34 problem facing the northern New Jersey and New York City port area,
35 which problem, if not expeditiously attacked, may lead to the closure of the

1 port area to important elements of inter-ocean commerce and have
2 devastating economic effects on the region; now, therefore,

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

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6 1. For the public policy reasons enumerated in the preamble to this
7 resolution, this House urges support for the proposed federal legislation to
8 provide for cost-sharing for land-based and confined aquatic facilities for the
9 disposal of dredged material sponsored by Congressman Robert Franks.

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11 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
12 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted
13 to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States,
14 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each
15 member of Congress elected thereto from this State.

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18 STATEMENT

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20 This Assembly Resolution urges support for proposed federal legislation,
21 sponsored by Congressman Robert Franks, to provide for cost-sharing for
22 land-based and confined aquatic facilities for the disposal of dredged material.
23 Current federal law only permits the federal Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
24 to be used to provide the federal share of the costs of dredging federal
25 navigation channels, but there is no provision for sharing the costs of disposal
26 on land or in confined aquatic facilities, such as a containment island. The
27 proposed federal legislation would be beneficial to the northern New Jersey
28 and New York port area which suffers from an accumulation of dredged
29 materials in its rivers and harbor some of which requires special treatment or
30 disposal because of the presence of containments. The proposed federal
31 legislation would permit the federal government to share in the cost of both
32 ocean and land-based disposal facilities, thereby facilitating the disposal of the
33 dredged material and alleviating a serious problem which affects oceanic
34 commerce to the port area.

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38 Urges support for proposed federal legislation to provide for cost-sharing for
39 land-based and ocean-based dredged material disposal facilities.