

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 92

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 1996

By Senators CONNORS and PALAIA

- 1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** condemning the recommendations of the
2 proposed Coastal Hazard Management Plan for New Jersey prepared by
3 the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences.
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, The Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers, the State
6 University of New Jersey, was commissioned by the Department of
7 Environmental Protection in 1994 to conduct a reassessment of the New
8 Jersey Shore Protection Master Plan of 1981; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, The Institute, after over two years of study and at a cost to
10 taxpayers of \$227,000, has released a final report, entitled the "Coastal
11 Hazard Management Plan for New Jersey," that calls for abandoning the
12 State's historical commitment to the protection of coastal resources and
13 properties in favor of a State plan that advocates the creation of a State
14 "division" dedicated to the management of coastal hazards and post-storm
15 land use along the Jersey Shore; and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, The proposed plan advocates that the State enact building
17 moratoria and relocation of people as part of post-disaster planning at the
18 Shore, relocate roads and sewers away from high hazard areas, and
19 encourage the enactment of zoning ordinances to limit development in high
20 hazard areas; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, The proposed plan calls for the elimination of beach protection
22 projects in high erosion rate areas, and further discourages the use of beach
23 restoration efforts except as a short-term approach, while recommending
24 that public funds be directed only toward shore management alternatives
25 that are part of a program to achieve long-term goals; and
- 26 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has clearly established as a top priority and as a long-
27 term goal the periodic replenishing and general preservation of the beaches
28 of the State, and has done so by creating the Shore Protection Fund, a \$15
29 million annual stable source of funding for beach replenishment; and
- 30 **WHEREAS**, Tourism could not exist without adequate protection of the Jersey
31 Shore through periodic beach renourishment, and the billions of dollars in
32 tourism spending in the coastal area constitute

1 approximately one-half of total tourism spending in the State, which
2 estimated to be \$20 billion annually; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The proposed "Coastal Hazard Management Plan for New
4 Jersey," if adopted as the policy directive of the State, would have a
5 disastrous effect on the shore tourism economy, including the potential loss
6 of thousands of jobs directly and indirectly related to the tourism industry,
7 on property values, and on State and local tax revenues; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The proposed plan is nothing less than an abandonment of the
9 State's historic commitment to its scenic beaches and to the preservation
10 of the culture of the Jersey Shore, and thus a blueprint for dismantling the
11 great heritage of our New Jersey Shore resort communities; now,
12 therefore,

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14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General
15 Assembly concurring):

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17 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey hereby condemns the
18 "Coastal Hazard Management Plan for New Jersey" proposed by the Institute
19 of Marine and Coastal Sciences and submitted to the Department of
20 Environmental Protection for implementation.

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22 2. The Legislature further urges the Governor of the State of New Jersey,
23 the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection and leaders
24 of the State Legislature to prevent implementation of the recommendations
25 contained in the proposed plan.

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27 3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of
28 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested to by the
29 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be
30 transmitted to the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the Commissioner
31 of the Department of Environmental Protection.

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STATEMENT

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36 This concurrent resolution condemns the Coastal Hazard Management Plan
37 for New Jersey proposed by the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal
38 Sciences and submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection. The
39 resolution urges the Governor and the commissioner of the department to
40 prevent the implementation of the recommendations contained in the plan.

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3 Condemns proposed Coastal Hazard Management Plan for NJ and urges

4 prevention of its implementation.