

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 39

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 1996

By Senator HAINES

1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging support for proposed federal legislation to  
2       provide for cost-sharing for land-based and confined aquatic facilities for  
3       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 Senate 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 President of  
12 the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the  
13 President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the  
14 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each member  
15 of Congress elected thereto from this State.

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18 STATEMENT

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