

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 80

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1997

By Senators SCOTT, KYRILLOS, Bennett and Palaia

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** memorializing the Congress of the United States to
2 take all appropriate measures to ensure that untreated sewage from the
3 City of New York is never discharged into open waters.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The City of New York recently proposed to discharge
6 approximately 140 million gallons per day of untreated sewage over a four-
7 day period, for a total of about 560 million gallons, into open waters while
8 the city conducts repairs at a Manhattan sewage pumping station; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Neither the State of New Jersey nor, apparently, the Interstate
10 Sanitation Commission were given proper notice of this deplorable
11 proposal or the opportunity to advise New York City of their respective
12 positions thereon, and it is appropriate for Congress to address the lack of
13 communication exhibited between states on such a critical interstate matter;
14 and
15 **WHEREAS**, Thorough, sufficient, and independent studies on the potential
16 environmental and economic impacts of the discharge were not conducted,
17 but if they had been, they certainly would have concluded that such a
18 discharge could drift into New Jersey waters, cause the temporary closure
19 of shellfish beds, and significantly damage New Jersey's vitally important
20 shore tourism and seafood industries; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Although the Governor of New York and the Mayor of the City
22 of New York, in response to strong protests lodged by the State of New
23 Jersey, concerned citizens, and various environmental organizations, have
24 agreed to postpone the untreated sewage discharge pending preparation
25 of an environmental assessment of the project to determine its effect on the
26 environment and the natural resources of the States of New York and New
27 Jersey, once that assessment is completed the City of New York
28 nevertheless could still decide to press forward with the discharge; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The Congress of the United States, through enactment of the
30 federal Clean Water Act and numerous other environmental laws, has
31 adopted widely accepted public goals and policies urging elimination of
32 water pollution and improvement of the Nation's water quality, but
33 achievement of these goals and policies are seriously undermined when
34 discharges of untreated sewage like that contemplated by the City of New
35 York are tolerated or permitted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The Congress of the United States is memorialized to take all appropriate measures to ensure that untreated sewage from the City of New York is never discharged into open waters.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, every member of Congress elected from this State, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Region II Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Interstate Sanitation Commission, the Governor of New York, the Mayor and City Council of the City of New York, the Governor of New Jersey, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

STATEMENT

This resolution would memorialize the Congress of the United States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that untreated sewage from the City of New York is never discharged into open waters. The City of New York recently proposed to discharge about 140 million gallons per day of untreated sewage over a four-day period, for a total of about 560 million gallons, into the East river while the city conducts repairs at a Manhattan sewage pumping station. Such a discharge, if allowed to occur, undoubtedly would have devastating environmental and economic impacts upon New Jersey. Although the proposed discharge was postponed recently by New York officials pending completion of an environmental assessment, it is quite possible that those same officials will allow it to happen eventually, unless they are absolutely prohibited by federal law, decision, or action from doing so.

Memorializes Congress to take measures to stop discharge of untreated sewage by New York City.