

## **R E S O L U T I O N #2023-02**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE OCEAN COUNTY MAYORS' ASSOCIATION, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PENDING A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BY INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS AND AGENCIES INTO THE UNPRECEDENTED DEATH OF WHALES**

**WHEREAS**, an unusually high number of dead whales, have appeared in the recent months on the coasts of New Jersey and New York and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government has recently sold leases for off shore industrial construction projects of wind farms, on the ocean floor off of the New Jersey and New York coast line, and ongoing pre-construction activities have already been undertaken which include the utilization of underwater noise generating devices used to survey and to characterize, the sea bed areas, and other potentially disorienting, and/or noise generating pre-construction activities already in progress, or are currently scheduled for implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale, as well as Humpback Whales, both frequent, in migratory paths and otherwise, the very area ocean waters currently being surveyed, and contemplated to be used, for the industrial construction of wind farms, in the location of one of the most hurricane and storm prone sites of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayors' Association of Ocean County, New Jersey, remains supportive of research into the development of the most efficient, cost effective, and least polluting producers of energy production, including but not limited to potential sources of "clean energy" and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayors' Association of Ocean County are calling for the immediate suspension of all pre-construction and construction activities associated with off shore wind farm development activities, until a comprehensive and, scientifically independent and thorough investigation has been conducted by scientific experts, as well as by all Federal and State Agencies, at the very least, to gain assurances that the pre-construction and construction activities are not contributing factors to the aforementioned recent deaths of whales; and

**WHEREAS**, a growing number of Federal, State and Local Officials have expressed a request for a moratorium in moving forward with pre-construction and construction activities associated with off shore wind projects, off the coasts of New Jersey and New York, until exhaustive, independent and thorough, scientific research has been conducted with all reports then disseminated, as to the impacts that all such construction activities and projects could cause upon the marine environment, species of whales, and all marine life, and the fishing industry.

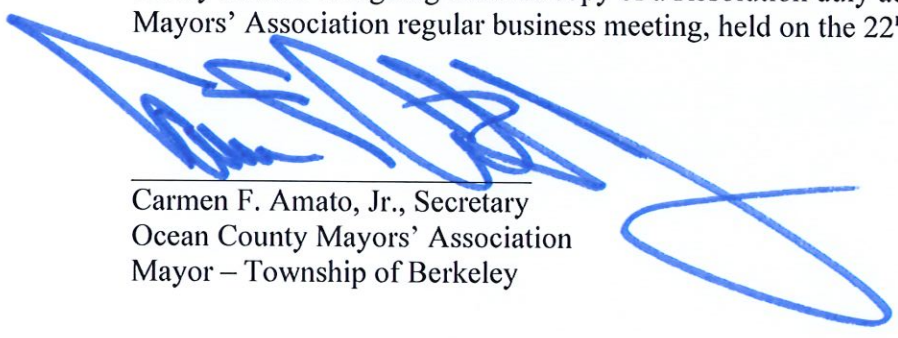
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ocean County Mayors' Association in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, hereby support a growing number of Federal, State and Local Officials calling for an immediate moratorium on all pre-construction

and construction activities associated with off shore wind farm development, until a comprehensive, thorough, independent, scientific investigation, has been undertaken and completed by appropriate scientists, as well by any and all Federal and State Agencies, having jurisdiction, so as to ensure that any and all of the above referenced activities are not materially contributing factors, as to numerous recent whale deaths, and other such negative impacts upon the marine environment; and

**NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED**, that the Ocean County Mayors' Association, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, shall forward a certified copy of the within Resolution to President Joe Biden, Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Menendez, Senator Booker, Congressman Van Drew, Congressman Kim, Congressman Smith, Senator Connors, Senator Holzapfel, Senator Thompson, Senator Singer, Assemblyman Rumpf, Assemblywoman Gove, Assemblyman Catalano, Assemblyman McGuckin, Assemblyman Clifton, Assemblyman Kean, Assemblyman Thompson, Assemblyman Sauickie, NJDEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette, NJDEP Deputy Commissioner Sean D. Moriarty, Ocean County Board of Commissioners, and all Ocean County Mayors.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Carmen F. Amato, Jr., Secretary of the Ocean County Mayors' Association do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted at an Ocean County Mayors' Association regular business meeting, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023.



Carmen F. Amato, Jr., Secretary  
Ocean County Mayors' Association  
Mayor – Township of Berkeley