RESOLUTION NO. 2024-169

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

WHEREAS, multiple international firms have received State approval to construct offshore wind farms, as close as 9 ½ miles off the coast of Ocean County; and

WHEREAS, grave concerns have been expressed about the local environmental and economic impact posed by the construction of the wind turbines; and

WHEREAS, wind turbines could have a negative effect upon migratory birds, and sea mammals, including the endangered North American Right Whale, and environmentalists have expressed concern about increases in whale and dolphin deaths that could be the result of sonar from wind farm construction; and

WHEREAS, other concerns are the negative effect upon the commercial fishing industry, as expressed by leaders in New Jersey's \$2.5 billion annual fishing industry, and in a Rutgers University study which concluded that such wind turbines could increase commercial fishing costs and possibly block vital fishing grounds; and

WHEREAS, tourism may be negatively impacted as well as local property values, by the visual pollution visible offshore, affecting the jobs of thousands as well as the local economy; and

WHEREAS, while new and clean energy sources should be pursued, further study is necessary to determine the impact upon the fragile bay environment and wildlife of high-voltage electrical main lines constructed under Barnegat Bay which would be used to connect windmills to the power grid; and

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WHEREAS, the governing body opposes the construction of wind turbines off the coast of Ocean County until further studies address these serious concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

- That the governing body of Little Egg Harbor Township joins with the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, Congressman Chris Smith and Congressman Jeff Van Drew in opposing the construction of wind turbines off the New Jersey coast, particularly the Ocean County coast.
- That the Federal Government and the State of New Jersey should implement a moratorium on offshore wind energy projects until all concerns are fully addressed.
- That certified copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, the 9th Legislative District Representatives, Ocean County Board of Commissioners, and all Ocean County municipalities.

CERTIFICATION

I, KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Little Egg Harbor do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township of Little Egg Harbor Township Committee at a meeting held on the 11th day of July, 2024.

KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC

Township Clerk

Little Egg Harbor Township

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