

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO SIGN CLIMATE CHANGE SUPERFUND ACT

RESOLUTION 24-

**RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO
SIGN CLIMATE CHANGE SUPERFUND ACT**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is here and is increasingly negatively impacting New Yorkers. We can see its effects in every season - drenching rains and flooding, scorching heat, and erratic winter storms.

WHEREAS, not only are these extreme weather events disruptive and sometimes deadly, they are also very expensive for individuals, businesses, and local governments to prepare for and then repair the subsequent significant damage. Estimates for statewide climate adaptation costs range into the hundreds of billions of dollars for projects like rebuilding damaged roads or replacing inadequate bridges.

WHEREAS, the Climate Change Superfund Act is a necessary source of revenue to pay for the steep costs of climate change incurred by New Yorkers. Based on the current spending and estimates of future costs, it is safe to project that the total cost of climate change adaptation will be well over \$500 billion for the State of New York. New Yorkers will face increased costs of about \$4,000 per person over the next 25 years.

WHEREAS, the Climate Change Superfund Act will raise significant revenue for the State without having a significant impact on the fossil fuel industry. The total revenue from the Climate Change Superfund Act will cover less than 15 percent of estimated NY climate change adaptation costs.

WHEREAS, the Superfund bill only applies to companies that emitted over 1 billion metric tons of CO2 between 2000 and 2018. The largest eight of these fossil fuel companies collectively earned \$389 billion in profits in 2022 alone, meaning that an annualized fee of \$3 billion amounts to less than 0.8 percent of industry profits.

WHEREAS, the assessed fees imposed on companies by the Climate Change Superfund Act will not be passed on to consumers and will not raise energy costs. The Superfund is designed to impose an assessment on the past actions of mega emitters. This methodology is similar that of the 1998 Tobacco Settlement. Because these assessments are based on previous behavior, they do not influence current or future decisions of these companies.

WHEREAS, these costs are already showing up in our local taxes too. A study by the State Comptroller recently found that: From 2018 to 2028, an ever-increasing percentage of New York State localities' municipal spending was or will be related to managing climate impacts.

WHEREAS, Federal funding for resiliency and adaptation programs is likely to decline substantially during the next Administration. Project 2025, a policy road map prepared by former Trump Administration officials, recommends that NOAA be “broken up and downsized” and that much of the burden for disaster recovery be shifted away from FEMA. Experts and current and former agency officials said such changes could leave the U.S. more vulnerable to extreme weather.

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature overwhelmingly passed the Climate Change Superfund Act in its most recent session but Governor Kathy Hochul has yet to sign it. She must do so before it expires at the end of the year. New Yorkers have already suffered and paid enough. The polluter pays principle has long been established in our legal system. The oil companies have broken our ecosystem and must be at least partially responsible for fixing it.

WHEREAS, the burden of resiliency expenses is increasingly being shouldered by local property taxpayers.

RESOLVED, that the Town of Lansing strongly urges Governor Hochul to sign the New York State Climate Change Superfund Act into law.

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Lansing shall send a letter, along with this resolution, to Governor Hochul.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____, duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake –	Councilperson Laurie Hemmings –
Councilperson Christine Montague –	Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –
Supervisor Ruth Groff –	

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on November 20, 2024.