

## RESOLUTION

### TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

#### **Resolution Expressing Support For Moratorium On Offshore Wind Energy Projects**

**WHEREAS**, there are currently multiple wind turbine projects to construct offshore wind farms 10 to 20 miles off the New Jersey coastline in various stages of development; and

**WHEREAS**, local residents, business and tourism leaders, elected officials and environmental groups have expressed concerns about the impact of these wind turbines on the local environment and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, these concerns include the effects that the installation of wind turbines may have on migratory birds and sea mammals, such as the North American Right Whale, which have experienced an extreme and troubling number of deaths within the New York and New Jersey area over the past three months; and

**WHEREAS**, to this end, some environmentalists have claimed that the recent increase in whale deaths along the New Jersey Coast and the Eastern Seaboard could be the result of sonar and other surveys being conducted prior to the wind farm construction; and

**WHEREAS**, if and when wind farms are installed, there are concerns about the negative impact that wind farms may have upon the commercial fishing industry's vital offshore fishing grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, residents and business owners also have concerns about the irrevocably negative impact on the coastal viewshed that will result from these turbines being visible from the New Jersey coastline and other ocean front beach locations and how this visual pollution will affect tourism and local property values; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Middletown stands to be directly affected by the potential effects of wind turbines, including their potential visibility and deleterious effects upon both the Bayshore and Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook located within the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the wind turbines further require connections to the power grid using high-voltage electrical mainline connections, which have the potential of negatively impacting the fragile Sandy Hook Bay environment; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Township Committee recognizes the importance of pursuing new and clean energy sources, there are serious concerns that have not been adequately addressed as these wind turbine projects continue to move through the planning stages.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Middletown hereby expresses its support for a federal and/or state moratorium on offshore wind energy projects along the New Jersey coastline until all concerns regarding same are fully addressed, including others that may arise between the time of adoption of this resolution and any potential future construction of offshore wind farms.