

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION NO. 10-34

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING OFFSHORE LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS PORT FACILITIES
IN THE NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK CLEAN OCEAN ZONE**

Ms. Horgan offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey/New York Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) is defined as the water from Montauk Point, NY, to Cape May, NJ, offshore to the outer edge of the Continental Shelf (out to 100 miles) and consists of over 19,000 square miles of Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the physical, hydrodynamic and biological characteristics of the COZ are unique in the world as more than 300 species of fish, nearly 350 species of birds, seven species of sea turtles, many marine mammals such as 25 species of whales and dolphins and several species of seals and porpoises frequent this region and nine endangered species four of which are whales, can be found in these ocean waters and the COZ also serves as an essential migratory pathway for many of these species; and

WHEREAS, the ecological richness and economic viability of this region depends on a clean marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the COZ is the target location for industrial liquefied natural gas (LNG) port facilities, and

WHEREAS, New York and Connecticut rejected a similar LNG proposal in Long Island Sound, instead offering two additional sites off the Jersey shore and south shore of Long Island for LNG facilities and a proposed LNG facility similar to that rejected in Long Island Sound, was also vetoed in California due to significant impacts to marine life and air quality, and

WHEREAS, LNG is a bad choice for the ocean as these facilities will devastate important fish habitats, impact endangered, threatened and protected species, damage seafloor habitats and destroy vast quantities of marine life by refilling huge emptied tankers with billions of gallons of seawater to replace LNG cargos which would expose the area to stronger and more frequent hurricanes, nor'easters and wind and wave risks; and

WHEREAS, LNG is an unsafe and risky business where the proposed facilities will straddle shipping lanes in the NY/NJ harbor region, the busiest port on the east coast and the third busiest in the US, will dramatically affect shipping traffic patterns when tankers approach the facility, alter ship traffic and navigation in the busy region and having LNG tankers leaving and entering shipping lanes amidst port traffic will raise the risk of accidents with all vessels such as cargo and oil tankers; and

WHEREAS, LNG is a polluting, climate-changing fossil fuel and the additional lifecycle stages of liquefaction, transportation and gasification emits harmful greenhouse gases (GHG) and LNG produces 20 to 40 percent more greenhouse gases than domestic natural gas; and

WHEREAS, we do not need LNG ports in this region and currently 97 percent of the natural gas used in the United States is from North America, with most of that from the US and existing LNG ports are significantly under-utilized and can more than meet our region's needs; and

WHEREAS, LNG is not domestic and over two-thirds of the world's natural gas reserves are in Russia and the Middle East and proposed sources for NY and NJ include countries like

Russia and offshore drilling in Trinidad where environmental laws and controls are often less stringent in these regions and these LNG schemes will increase the burning of polluting GHG-emitting fossil fuels and increase our use and dependence on unstable foreign energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing amounts of GHG from burning fossil fuels is changing the chemistry of the sea by increasing its acidity and thereby diminishing the ocean’s ability to serve the free and vital role as the earth’s largest and most effective absorber of major GHG emissions, as well as making the sea itself harmful to marine life; and

WHEREAS, LNG projects will permanently exclude the public from the ocean with vast areas of the ocean being off limits to the public including boaters and fishing vessels; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic Sea Island Group’s “Safe Harbor Energy” project (a massive manmade island in the open ocean for an LNG facility), ExxonMobil’s “BlueOcean Energy project (a floating experimental terminal for LNG) and Excalibur Energy’s “Liberty Natural Gas Project” (four buoy LNG importation facilities) have been proposed and identified for the region; and

WHEREAS, solutions are available and we need to support energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy technologies and projects which are readily available such as educating the public that eight to twelve medium-sized power plants worth of energy could be saved if NJ citizens were energy efficient and by focusing efforts on efficiency, conservation measures and renewable technologies the region can create a win-win situation, decreasing GHG while working toward long term job creation with green technologies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank of the County of Monmouth hereby opposes the building of Liquefied Natural Gas facilities off the New York/New Jersey coast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk forward a certified true copy of this Resolution to the Governors of the states of New Jersey and New York and to Clean Ocean Action.

Seconded by Ms. Lee and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Lewis	(x)	()	()	()
Mr. Zipprich	(x)	()	()	()
Mr. DuPont	(x)	()	()	()
Ms. Horgan	(x)	()	()	()
Ms. Lee	(x)	()	()	()
Mr. Murphy	(x)	()	()	()

Dated: January 25, 2010