

RESOLUTION 23-0206.10

**CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON SHORE WIND TOWER DEVELOPMENT
PENDING A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE UNPRECEDENTED DEATHS OF
WHALES**

WHEREAS, based upon the following, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Township of Long Beach ("Township") call for an immediate suspension of all offshore wind development activity ("Shore Wind Tower Development") until comprehensive, thorough investigations are conducted and completed by Federal and State agencies which conclude Shore Wind Tower Development is not a contributing factor to the recent whale deaths and does not negatively impact other marine life; and

WHEREAS, over the course of thirty-eight (38) days or so a staggering seven (7) dead whales have washed onto the New York and New Jersey coasts; and

WHEREAS, the Shore Wind Tower Development includes the surveying of the ocean floor for the suitability of foundations for the wind towers and turbines and for laying cables between the foundations and the shoreline, which involves multi-beam sound equipment, side-scan sonar, and so-called "cone penetration testing" in which a drill on top of a vessel presses a metal rod into the sea floor to test the friction and resistance of the soil; and

WHEREAS, many organizations and scientists believe that sonar and activity as aforesaid have a significant, negative impact upon marine life, including whales, and, in fact, a number of studies have concluded that sonar negatively impacts the behavior of whales, including causing confusion, causing them to swim ashore, and causing them to stop diving and feeding; and

WHEREAS, Clean Ocean Action has called for a temporary moratorium on ocean floor exploration, stating "any industrial activity, especially reckless industrial development that is massive in scope, scale, magnitude, and speed, should be required to prove it is protective of the marine ecosystem"; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of Ocean City and other municipalities throughout the Jersey Shore have called for the suspension of the Shore Wind Tower Development until further research as to the potential impact of such activity on whales and other marine mammal and marine life; and

WHEREAS, United States Congressmen Jeff Van Drew and Chris Smith and State Senator Polistina and other elected officials have also called for a moratorium of the Shore Wind Tower Development until further studies are conducted; and

WHEREAS, the Township strongly supports both the environment and the potential of clean and renewable energy and thorough studies, facts, and science should dictate how to proceed with clean and renewable energy which does not cause harm and death to whales, other marine life, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners further contend and submit that the voices of the local communities who are directly and significantly impacted by the Shore Wind Tower Development through the harm to marine life, the ecosystem, and the nature of their local environment should carry the greatest weight; and

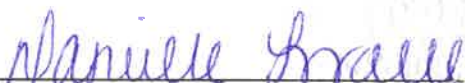
WHEREAS, at this time, the Mayor and Commissioners are requesting further scientific study regarding the impact of the Shore Wind Tower Development on this and all aspects of the marine environment, as well as its significant and negative impact on the local environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Township of Long Beach, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, and in accordance with the foregoing Recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, that an immediate moratorium on shore wind tower development should be imposed until further research and studies are conducted into the deaths of the whales and the impact of the ocean floor surveys on all marine life and the environment.

PASSED ON: February 6, 2023

CERTIFICATION

I, Danielle La Valle, Municipal Clerk for the Township of Long Beach do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 23-0206.10 was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held on Monday, February 6, 2023.


Danielle La Valle
Municipal Clerk