

RESOLUTION 2025-113
OPPOSING NEW JERSEY PROTECTING AGAINST CLIMATE THREATS/RESILIENT
ENVIRONMENTS AND LANDSCAPE RULES (NJPACT)

WHEREAS, the Council of the Township of Florence opposes the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) 1,057-page NJPACT rules due to their significant adverse impacts, the Council sets forth the following objections:

A. NJPACT'S CREATION, IMPACT, AND CONSEQUENCES

1. NJPACT, stemming from Governor Murphy's Executive Order 100, imposes excessive building regulations, including raising homes and roads 5 feet above base flood elevation, far exceeding federal and local standards, effective around August 2026.
2. NJPACT rules will devastate coastal economies, reducing property values, tourism, and housing affordability, impacting the entire state's economic vitality and exacerbating housing shortages.
3. NJPACT relies on a sea level rise study with only a 17% likelihood 75 years from now
4. Homes along the Jersey Shore, typically replaced every 25-30 years, would be overbuilt under NJPACT, imposing unnecessary costs when risks could be reassessed in 2050 or 2075.
5. NJPACT's costs make compliance unaffordable for current and future homeowners, forcing middle-class retreat and favoring the ultra-wealthy.
6. NJPACT aligns with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum standards but offers no premium discounts for exceeding them, creating financial burdens without benefits.
7. Without funding, NJPACT's enforcement strains municipalities, risking economic disaster for tourism-dependent seasonal economies.
8. Unfunded mandates may lead to inconsistent regional protection, disproportionately harming smaller communities.

B. REALITIES AND PRUDENT COURSE

9. With an 83% probability that NJPACT's mandates will be unnecessary in 76 years, a more gradual, legislatively supported approach is warranted.
10. Coastal communities contribute \$16 billion annually to New Jersey's economy, and beach replenishment is not a burden but a driver of tourism and jobs.
11. The Township of Florence proactively addresses climate risks through resilient action plans [or similar], meeting stringent FEMA standards and designing infrastructure for 500-year floods.
12. NJPACT's extreme approach, based on unlikely scenarios, defies science and burdens residents and municipalities unnecessarily.
13. The Township of Florence supports reasonable climate policies but requests NJPACT's withdrawal or amendment to a fact-based, gradual approach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Council of the Township of Florence vigorously opposes NJPACT due to its threat to public health, welfare, and economic stability.

PASSED ON: May 21, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Nancy L. Erlston, Municipal Clerk, certify that Resolution 2025-113 was adopted by the Council of the Township of Florence on May 21, 2025

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Municipal Clerk

