

BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019
COMMENCING AT 7:07 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN

MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN

DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

TRACY SILNA ZUR

DAVID L. GANZ

STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

1
2
3 ALSO PRESENT:

4 JAMES J. TEDESCO III
5 BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

6 LARA RODRIGUEZ
7 CLERK TO THE BOARD

8 JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE
9 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10 WILLIAM J. MASLO, ESQUIRE
11 COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

12 MICHAEL SHEINFELD
13 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

14 STORM WYCHE
15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

24 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
25 P.O. BOX 213
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1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is
2 called to order at 7:07 p.m.

3 Before we begin our meeting, I ask that
4 everyone please silence your cellphones.

5 Thank you.

6 Will the Clerk please read the
7 compliance with the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public
8 Meetings Act.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: In accordance with
10 Section 5 of the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings
11 Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been
12 provided in the Annual Notice Schedule, which
13 contained the time, date, and location of this
14 meeting, copies of which Notices were forwarded to
15 the official County newspapers, to wit: The Herald
16 News and The Record, and a copy of which was posted
17 on the bulletin board in the Bergen County Justice
18 Center and Administration Building, One Bergen County
19 Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey, and filed with the
20 Office of the Bergen County Clerk.

21 ROLL CALL

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk
23 please call the roll.

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll
25 call is taken with Freeholders Ganz, Sullivan,

1 Tanelli, Voss, Silna Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso,
2 and Chairwoman Ortiz present.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Evidence of a quorum
4 is present.

5 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Would everyone
7 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 Freeholder Tanelli, would you lead us.

9 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you.

10 Please join me.

11 (At this point in the proceeding all
12 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
13 led by Freeholder Tanelli.)

14 MOMENT OF SILENCE

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please remain
16 standing for a Moment of Silence as we remember
17 former Assemblyman Michael Ferrara.

18 A longtime resident of Wyckoff,
19 Mr. Ferrara was a World War II veteran who served in
20 Europe and worked under Gen. Eisenhower in
21 Versailles.

22 As a practicing attorney, Mr. Ferrara
23 served as legal counsel to Bergen County, the Board
24 of Chosen Freeholders, and to numerous towns across
25 the county.

1 Aside from his service in the Assembly,
2 one of the professional successes he was most proud
3 of was the founding of the Bergen Bank of Commerce.

4 Mr. Ferrara is survived by his wife of
5 70 years, Grace Ann; his daughters, Donna, Virginia,
6 and Lisa; three grandchildren and three great
7 grandchildren.

8 Our thoughts and prayers go out to his
9 family and loved ones.

10 (Whereupon a Moment of Silence is
11 observed.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

13 PRESENTATION TO THE NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF
14 THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We are honored to
16 have with us tonight Ms. Jocelyn Gilman, Executive
17 Director of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the
18 American Red Cross.

19 The Freeholder Board would like to
20 commend the Red Cross for their efforts regarding the
21 recent fire at the Linwood Park Cooperative in
22 Fort Lee. Your organization was instrumental in
23 setting up shelter for displaced residents at
24 Fort Lee High School and offering free emergency
25 assistance to all affected by this tragic event.

1 Would you please join us to receive
2 your proclamation declaring March 2019 as Red Cross
3 Month.

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Ladies and
6 gentlemen, it's my honor to be able to provide a
7 proclamation in recognition of American Red Cross
8 Month.

9 I had the distinct opportunity to serve
10 on the board of directors of the Red Cross when the
11 chapter was in Ridgewood, and now it's merged a few
12 times and now it's the Northern New Jersey chapter.

13 But I also was at the Linwood apartment
14 fire in Fort Lee when the Red Cross stepped up and
15 helped all of those people that were so tragically
16 affected by the fire that needed shelter and housing.
17 The Red Cross came through and still is providing
18 assistance as we speak.

19 So I'm very honored and pleased to be
20 able to present on behalf of the nearly one million
21 people that call Bergen County their home, this
22 proclamation in recognition of American Red Cross
23 Month.

24 I'm not going to read the entire thing,
25 but let me read a couple of paragraphs.

1 It says:

2 "Whereas, the American Red Cross is an
3 important partner in our efforts to keep Bergen
4 County residents safe and healthy, offering support
5 to our friends and neighbors in times of great need.

6 "And, whereas, since World War II, the
7 United States has recognized the month of March as
8 'American Red Cross Month,' honoring the charitable
9 organization and its team for their commitment to
10 alleviating human suffering.

11 "And, whereas, on behalf of the nearly
12 one million residents of Bergen County, I am proud to
13 celebrate the everyday heroes of the Northern New
14 Jersey chapter of the American Red Cross and thank
15 the organization, its staff, and its volunteers for
16 their service to all of us.

17 "Now, therefore, be it resolved that I,
18 James J. Tedesco, the County Executive of Bergen
19 County, in the State of New Jersey, do hereby
20 proclaim March 2019 as 'American Red Cross Month.'"

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: And I have a
23 commendation.

24 On behalf of the Board of Chosen
25 Freeholders, we would like to thank you again for

1 being here tonight. I can't imagine what we would do
2 without a humanitarian organization like yourselves
3 and everything you do for us. I especially want to
4 thank you on behalf of the residents of Fort Lee,
5 thank you so much, and we have a resolution here.

6 "Whereas, the American Red Cross
7 shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to
8 victims of disasters, supplies 40 percent of the
9 nation's blood, teaches skills that save lives,
10 provides international humanitarian aid, and supports
11 military members and their families, we dedicate the
12 month of March to all those who support the American
13 Red Cross' mission to prevent and alleviate human
14 suffering in the face of emergencies.

15 "Our community depends on the American
16 Red Cross, which relies on volunteers and the
17 generosity of the public to perform its mission.

18 "Now, therefore, be it resolved that
19 the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby
20 proclaims March 2019 as 'Red Cross Month.'"

21 Thank you.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 MS. GILMAN: Thank you.

24 I must have been really, really
25 successful last year, because in so many years I've

1 never seen so many people.

2 So, first of all, thank you to the
3 County Executive and to the Chosen Freeholders of
4 Bergen County for honoring us.

5 I have Tom McConnelly (phonetic) with
6 me. He's one of our volunteers. We're actually
7 92 percent volunteer driven, but in New Jersey we're
8 actually 97 percent volunteer driven, so I'm very
9 proud of you.

10 I'm just truly honored to be here to
11 represent the Red Cross.

12 You've mentioned about the fire in Fort
13 Lee, so I think the thing I'd really like to leave
14 you with today is just three things.

15 We actually go out and we try to
16 prevent home fires from happening.

17 Out of the 64,000 disasters that happen
18 every year, the majority of those are home fires. So
19 the three things I'd ask you to do is to: Make sure
20 you have a working smoke alarm. You have about two
21 minutes to get out of a burning building, so that
22 alarm gives you 50 percent more chance to get out.

23 If you go on our website,
24 RedCross.org/prepare, it will give you a lot of fire
25 prevention tips.

1 And we also really encourage you to try
2 to create a family evacuation plan, because instead
3 of looking for each other for two minutes, you should
4 all be running out. Perhaps you've chosen a tree
5 across the road three house down to meet. But,
6 please, take it really seriously, because, as you've
7 seen here, home fires are truly devastating.

8 So, again, on behalf of the American
9 Red Cross and our volunteers and everybody here,
10 thank you.

11 [APPLAUSE]

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

13 MINUTES

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
15 the minutes to be accepted.

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The minutes to be
17 accepted are:

18 February 6, 2019 - Public Session; all
19 present.

20 February 13, 2019 - Work Session; all
21 present.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
23 to accept the minutes?

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the minutes.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

2 (All present Freeholders respond in the
3 affirmative.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
8 to open the meeting to the public?

9 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

13 (All present Freeholders respond in the
14 affirmative.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have the
18 Hearing of the General Public, with a three-minute
19 time limit in effect, in accordance with the Bergen
20 County Freeholder bylaws.

21 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
22 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board
23 Attorney will announce that the time has expired.

24 Please fill out the slip of paper with
25 your name, address, and general topic you wish to

1 speak about.

2 I have quite a few from Wyckoff. The
3 town of Wyckoff had reached out to us in regards to
4 open space acquisition of the Maple Lake property and
5 they're all coming before us.

6 COMMITTEEMAN SHANLEY: We're all coming
7 up individually. All the governing members of the
8 township committee are here. I'm Tim Shanley.

9 COMMITTEEWOMAN RUBENSTEIN: And I'm
10 Melissa Rubenstein.

11 COMMITTEEMAN BOONSTRA: Rudy Boonstra,
12 former mayor, current township committee member.

13 COMMITTEEMAN SCANLAN: Brian Scanlan,
14 former mayor, current township committee member.

15 MAYOR MADIGAN: Tom Madigan. I am the
16 mayor of Wyckoff.

17 As you can see, we have our full
18 governing body tonight. We're happy to be here and
19 we're very grateful for the open space grant that
20 you're going to be voting on this evening. We really
21 appreciate it. It's 20 acres in Wyckoff.

22 And I'm going to let my fellow
23 colleagues just make a very brief comment.

24 COMMITTEEMAN SHANLEY: The 20 acres
25 that we're going to acquire with that grant are on

1 the border of Midland Park, so Midland Park residents
2 will also get the benefit of it. And there's quite a
3 bit of wetlands in there that will be preserved.

4 When we were coming through the
5 approval process, I got to meet Capt. Bill Sheehan,
6 he referred to him as Capt. Bill, because I met Capt.
7 Bill when I worked for John F. Kennedy, Jr's Pace
8 Environmental Clinic back in '92-93, so I understand
9 how important it is to preserve the wetlands and
10 preserve our waterways, so thank you.

11 COMMITTEEMAN SCANLAN: Hi.

12 Maple Lake has been on our radar, at
13 least my radar, since 2006. This is a golden
14 opportunity for us to finally seal the deal with the
15 owners of the property, so I'd like to thank all of
16 you for the support of our grant application.

17 COMMITTEEMAN BOONSTRA: Yes, I too
18 would like to thank the Freeholder Board for its
19 consideration of our application tonight. I have
20 walked this property twice with Capt. Bill Sheehan
21 and other members of the Open Space Advisory Board,
22 and we all think it would be a big win if we could
23 close this deal and acquire the property for open
24 space.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMITTEEWOMAN RUBENSTEIN: I want to
2 thank you all for, hopefully, approving the grant.

3 One of the first things I did when I
4 was elected was to walk this property, and I saw the
5 concrete that was used for the old swimming pool
6 there, and it truly is a piece of Wyckoff history.
7 So I thank you very much for preserving the open
8 space.

9 MR. SHANNON: My name is Bob Shannon.
10 I'm the Municipal Administrator in Wyckoff. I just
11 want to point out that we have the entire township
12 committee here, that shows how important this grant
13 is.

14 Ten years ago, you gave us a grant and
15 we purchased Russell Farms Community Park. Give us
16 the money, we know how to do it right.

17 COMMITTEEMAN SHANLEY: The last thing
18 is, I know we also have as part of the grant for our
19 municipal field. I am the liaison for the rec board
20 and on the committee that is trying to get that all
21 approved at Memorial Field. It will be a new turf
22 field, as well as a walking path so our residents can
23 walk through the park and into the center of town, so
24 thank you.

25 COMMITTEEWOMAN RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.

1 COMMITTEEMAN SCANLAN: Thank you very
2 much.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're extremely
4 pleased that we were able to present this to you. As
5 a matter of fact, we actually are passing a
6 resolution that we will be granting over \$60 million
7 to several municipalities for open space, and, as a
8 board, we continue to be committed to continue
9 acquiring open space for multiple reasons, physical,
10 I mean just for the community and for the whole
11 County of Bergen, which will benefit all the
12 residents.

13 Freeholder, you had something to say.

14 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Just really
15 quickly.

16 I want to thank the Open Space Advisory
17 Board for the hard work and diligence they do on
18 every application that comes before the county. They
19 try to be fair and open-minded with every application
20 that they get.

21 I just want to follow-up on what the
22 Chairwoman said.

23 This commitment that this Board has
24 made to open space and this county and the
25 environment in this county is second to none, and, in

1 my opinion, shouldn't even be questioned. We fully
2 funded it. We're doing everything we need to do to
3 take back some of the property and clean up some of
4 the property that was destroyed over the years, so
5 I'm so glad that we're able to do projects like this.

6 Thank you, Chairwoman.

7 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: This just goes to
8 show, a couple years back we fully funded the Open
9 Space Trust Fund, we added it back up to the penny,
10 where years ago it was cut for budgetary reasons.
11 This particular Freeholder Board, as it stands now,
12 made a commitment not to make it a political
13 football, because we know how important open space
14 is, and that's why we bumped it back up to the
15 original penny. So these are results.

16 We thank you for having a project to
17 bring to us, and we thank the committee for awarding
18 all of this money to preserve Bergen County.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Before you leave, we
21 actually wanted to present a check to you.

22 County Executive, do you want to say
23 something?

24 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Before the
25 ceremonial check gets presented, let me just say that

1 open space and the recreational opportunities and the
2 opportunities for people to enjoy pristine land and
3 also be able to take advantage of recreational
4 opportunities for their health and their well-being,
5 those are the things that this administration, and,
6 with the support of the Freeholder Board, are able to
7 do. And you heard \$16 million, but that's just in
8 open space. We have Farm Preservation Frust Funds,
9 we have Blue Acre money. We're going to continue
10 here in Bergen County to do these types of things
11 with our municipal partners to make sure that the
12 quality of life of the people in Bergen County is
13 preserved and enhanced.

14 And the township commission, I commend
15 you for bringing this forward to the county, and we
16 look forward to more opportunities to work in this
17 type of endeavor. I would encourage anyone that has
18 an opportunity to look at preserving open space or
19 doing something from a recreational standpoint, to
20 bring it to us and let us evaluate it and work
21 together on bringing that to fruition. So to the
22 folks of Wyckoff, congratulations --

23 MAYOR MADIGAN: Thank you.

24 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: -- because
25 of the 20 acres of preserved property.

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 COMMITTEEMAN SCANLAN: Thanks a lot.

3 COMMITTEEWOMAN RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay.

5 Caitlin Doran.

6 MS. DORAN: Wow, first up.

7 As you already know, my name is Caitlin
8 Doran. I am here representing -- I'm the third name
9 under Capt. Bill and the rest of the crew at
10 Hackensack Riverkeeper. I'm our outreach and
11 volunteer coordinator. And in my role, I'm really
12 pleased to work with 1,000 volunteers, and we spend
13 our time taking trash, tires, and other pollution out
14 of the river.

15 I had some really important talking
16 points here about human health and how the proposed
17 Meadowlands power plant will affect human health,
18 because it will, particularly air pollution, but I
19 think I'm going to do what Bill would do and just
20 speak from the heart and say that I am someone who
21 votes and fishes and picks up trash along our river,
22 and I've seen firsthand the degradation in different
23 parts stretching from Bergen through Hudson. I've
24 also seen the resiliency and the return of wildlife,
25 and it's amazing.

1 What this power plant does is put an
2 added burden on our river, and it can't take it.
3 It's overburdened. It's just another thing. Not
4 now.

5 Capt. Bill, who is the youngest
6 70-year-old I know -- I'm sure he doesn't appreciate
7 that on the record -- but he is the youngest
8 70-year-old I know, says that he doesn't know if he's
9 going to see this river become fishable and swimmable
10 in his lifetime, but I certainly hope to see it that
11 way in mine, and the proposed Meadowlands power plant
12 works against that, not for it.

13 So thank you for listening to my little
14 speech today. Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

16 [APPLAUSE]

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Michael Stiles.

18 MR. STILES: My name is Michael Stiles.
19 I'm the business manager for Local 274 in the
20 northern end of the state, which covers from the
21 Hudson River to the Delaware River, from Newark to
22 New York State. We also cover gas distribution and
23 mainline gas across the whole State of New Jersey.

24 First, let me address the "800-pound
25 gorilla" comment that was brought up about the labor

1 unions.

2 It's the environmental group and their
3 lobbyists that have spent \$1 billion in the State of
4 New Jersey to push renewable energy projects, like
5 offshore wind energy, at a cost of over five times
6 higher per megawatt, and solar, at a cost of seven
7 times higher per megawatt than conventional natural
8 gas power generation, the cost you expect the
9 ratepayers of New Jersey to absorb in their utility
10 bills.

11 It's time for all of you to stop coming
12 to meetings like this and imposing your bully-like
13 tactics on the people of our state and start putting
14 your "money" where your mouth is and spend your money
15 to fund renewable energy projects that will reduce
16 the cost of renewable projects and relieve the
17 ratepayers of high utility bills.

18 The Diamond Generating project is the
19 cleanest power-generating facility ever to be built
20 in the Northeast. It is in an area of North Bergen
21 (Hudson County) that was an old toxic dumping ground,
22 doing far more environmental damage to the
23 Meadowlands than the power plant would. The Diamond
24 Energy project will actually clean up the property.

25 The Diamond Generating Company has

1 built many projects in the State of California, with
2 the strictest environmental regulations in the
3 country.

4 Now let's talk a few facts here.

5 Local 274's headquarters was located in
6 Ridgefield, New Jersey since 1970, where we were good
7 taxpaying people to the Town of Ridgefield.

8 Mayor Suarez of Ridgefield had no
9 problem with the Seiman's Technology Power Terminal
10 that was built to send power over to Con Edison in
11 New York City, forcing Local 274 either to relocate
12 or have our property taken under eminent domain so
13 the project could be completed.

14 Mayor Suarez made sure the Town of
15 Ridgefield got theirs in the way of tax rateables --

16 MR. MASLO: Time is up, sir.

17 MR. STILES: It's time already?

18 MR. MASLO: Yes.

19 MR. STILES: All right. I had a lot
20 more to say.

21 There's a lot of speakers.

22 AUDIENCE VOICE: Let him speak.

23 MR. STILES: A couple bits?

24 All right. So the mayor got his tax
25 rateables, but he has a lot to say about North Bergen

1 getting the same thing.

2 Three times the offshore energy wind
3 project off the coast of Atlantic City has been
4 denied by the Board of Public Utilities, citing the
5 high cost per megawatt to ratepayers in the State of
6 New Jersey.

7 Gov. Murphy has set a very aggressive
8 renewable policy for the state, which will be laid
9 out in his Energy Master Plan in the spring. He has
10 pledged to build 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind
11 energy by 2030. Keeping that in mind, Oyster Creek
12 Nuclear, Hudson Generating, and Duck Island PSE&G
13 power plants and the BL England power plant in Cape
14 May County have already been retired, shutdown,
15 leaving ratepayers to rely on National Grid.
16 Gov. Murphy's 3,500-megawatt of offshore wind by 2030
17 only equals what was already lost to the State of New
18 Jersey.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Stiles, can you
20 wrap it up or if you can maybe send all the
21 Freeholders a letter?

22 MR. STILES: I sent written comment
23 there.

24 MR. SABATO: He could have my minutes.
25 Okay? Mike can have my minutes.

1 MR. STILES: Thank you very much,
2 Ricky.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We can't do that.

4 MR. STILES: You can't do that?

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: No, we give everyone
6 three minutes.

7 MR. STILES: Okay.

8 AUDIENCE VOICE: Keep going, Mike.

9 MR. MASLO: Sir, we can't allow that.

10 AUDIENCE VOICE: Keep going.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Can you have
12 somebody else finish for you?

13 MR. STILES: All right.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: That's fair.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 MR. STELLA: Warren Stella, 15 Arminda
17 Avenue, Midland Park, longtime resident of Bergen
18 County, and I'll be here for the rest of my life.

19 PSE&G, the state's largest utility
20 company, has said that it will shutdown its nuclear
21 facilities in Salem County in less than three years,
22 if they do not receive the financial subsidies needed
23 to keep the power generating plants open.

24 Salem 1 & 2 and Hope Creek supply
25 one-third of New Jersey's power in South Jersey and

1 produce 3,631 megawatts of clean burning energy,
2 leaving ratepayers to rely on National Grid even
3 further.

4 Now let's talk about the natural gas
5 pipeline problems that you people all oppose.

6 The Northeast Gas Utilities, as of
7 March 15, 2019, have imposed a moratorium on new gas
8 service due to the lack of sufficient natural gas
9 pipeline in the region. Con Edison will no longer
10 accept applications for new connections in the
11 majority of its service area because of the pipeline
12 constraints, leaving New York City, the economic
13 engine of the world, without the power and natural
14 gas to build power generation.

15 Embridge's chief executive, Al Monaco,
16 said this month that demand for more capacity in the
17 Northeast region is on the rise, while pipeline
18 constraints result in the consumers "Paying through
19 the nose" for higher priced oil and imported
20 liquified natural gas, leaving consumers and utility
21 companies to use dirty No. 2 fuel oil in the region
22 for power generation and home heating needs.

23 National Grid has stated they will be
24 forced to declare a moratorium on supplying natural
25 gas to large new projects and redevelopment projects,

1 if pipelines do not receive needed state permits by
2 May 15, 2019.

3 These are the facts! We don't have the
4 natural gas, we don't have the power, and we still
5 don't have the renewable energy projects.

6 I have been in office for close to
7 20 years, and I've heard the environmental groups
8 talk for 20 years.

9 It's time to stop crying wolf and just
10 talking about problems, and start putting your money
11 where your mouths are. Instead of spending a billion
12 dollars on high-priced lawyers and lobbyists, spend
13 your money on renewable energy projects. Remember,
14 if you cry wolf long enough, no one will listen.

15 One other thing. I grew up in the
16 shadows of the Public Service plant in Ridgefield. I
17 lived in Ridgefield Park my whole life. We watched
18 them burn coal. Then they switched to oil. And then
19 there was a problem with the oil, so we went to clean
20 burning natural gas. Now all of a sudden natural gas
21 is the enemy.

22 What's going to happen after natural
23 gas? What's the next enemy?

24 Okay. Thank you for your time.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Nicholas Lento.

2 MR. LENTO: Thank you for the
3 opportunity to speak to you.

4 Nick Lento, Cliffside Park, New Jersey.

5 My time starts now, I guess.

6 Okay. Thank you very much.

7 I was hoping Jeff Tittle would make it
8 here. Jeff Tittle is the environmentalist who really
9 has all the facts down. Since he is not able to get
10 in for some reason, maybe he couldn't find a place to
11 park, what I will do is I'll just speak off-the-cuff
12 based on facts that I've heard from him and from
13 other people.

14 No. 1. This plant, nobody in New York
15 wants it or needs it. All the power generated here
16 is for New York City, none of it goes to New Jersey,
17 whether or not the nuclear plant opens or closes. So
18 that's No. 1.

19 No. 2. This plant is using gas, but I
20 don't know if I'd call it natural gas, because it's
21 going to be fracked. Fracked gas has contaminants in
22 it with all the fracking chemicals and the crap that
23 goes with it.

24 No. 3. When this plant doesn't have
25 enough natural gas, it is going to be burning fuel

1 oil. That is going to be the backup contingency,
2 when the gas can't come through.

3 No. 4 is that it is going to have a
4 cooling tower. That cooling tower is going to be
5 treated sewer water, but it's still sewer water that
6 the BCUA is going to have to pipe in and out again.
7 That stuff is going to evaporate, that's the way it
8 works, that's how it cools. All that sewer water has
9 contaminants in it, some of it radioactive. Millions
10 of people are going to be breathing that thousands of
11 tons of garbage for the next 25 to 30 years. That's
12 the lifetime of that plant. And those millions of
13 people vote. Let me tell you something, they're not
14 going to forget about this. If you guys do not stop
15 this thing from happening, the political movement is
16 going to come back to haunt you, because people care
17 more about breathing than about 400 or 500 people
18 working for a few months. And let me tell you
19 something else, guys, the answer --

20 AUDIENCE: Boo!

21 MR. LENTO: This is this America. Just
22 look at this! Let me talk! Let me talk! Please,
23 give me an extra 30 seconds for that, please.

24 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

25 MR. LENTO: Let me say something!

1 The way to get all of these wonderful
2 people working, and I've been in the union, the
3 butchers union, amalgamated butchers union, in the
4 1262. Anyway, the way to get all of these good
5 people working is to change the zoning and
6 construction codes to mandate better insulation so
7 you don't have to use so much energy, and then you'll
8 have a lot higher quality building and housing, and
9 you'll have a lot more people like this working in
10 good union jobs making good labor. Instead of
11 illegal immigrants coming in here working for
12 contractors for 12 bucks an hour off the books, put
13 these people to work. Okay.

14 Think about this, fellas. Think about
15 your children who live in the area who have to
16 breathe that air for the next 15, 20, 35 years.
17 Think about New Jersey being called "Cancer Alley."
18 We've had enough cancer. Cancer costs a lot more
19 than letting things be polluted.

20 And also this, the future in terms of
21 global warming.

22 How much time do I have left?

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: 30 seconds.

24 MR. LENTO: All right.

25 I want to thank you very much. I love

1 you guys. I understand why you're here, you got to
2 make a living. I don't blame you a bit. Let me tell
3 you, there's more than you guys know. You're being
4 used.

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Ed Smith.

7 Is Mr. Smith here?

8 Scott LaMorticella.

9 MR. LaMORTICELLA: Good evening, ladies
10 and gentlemen of the Bergen County Board of Chosen
11 Freeholders. I'm Scott LaMorticella. I'm the
12 business agent for Local 696, sprinkler fitters. I'm
13 here representing my Bergen County members.

14 First of all, I'd just like to say we
15 appreciate everything you do and my local is in full
16 support of you.

17 Just a quick question, the last time I
18 checked, is North Bergen part of Bergen County?

19 AUDIENCE VOICE: No, Hudson.

20 MR. LaMORTICELLA: Thank you. Have a
21 great night.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: For the next
24 speakers, please quiet down, the court reporter
25 cannot take notes with everyone screaming, so just

1 give the time and respect for whoever comes up for
2 their three minutes.

3 Next, Janet Glass.

4 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

5 MS. GLASS: Respect.

6 Thank you very much for letting me
7 speak.

8 My name is Janet Glass.

9 I live in North Bergen and not far from
10 the plant that would be built. I have grandchildren.
11 I'm very concerned about the methane, about the
12 ground level ozone and all the chemical release that
13 is predicted to come from this plant.

14 I am also a leader of GreenFaith, which
15 is a circle of congregations that are in Bergen
16 County. There are eight congregations, and all of us
17 are in agreement that no new fossil fuel plants
18 should be built, period.

19 We are running out of time. We're in a
20 climate crisis, and we believe that fossil fuels are
21 implicated in that. And to start with a brand new
22 fossil fuel plant at this point, we think is very
23 misguided.

24 Thank you.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Excuse me. Could

1 I just ask you one question?

2 Chairwoman, do you mind?

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: No.

4 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Have you gone to
5 the Freeholder Board in Hudson County?

6 MS. GLASS: Not yet, but we're planning
7 to.

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Have you reached
9 out to the Hudson County legislators?

10 MS. GLASS: Yes.

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: How many have
12 signed?

13 MS. GLASS: They are not receptive,
14 because they are looking at short-term profits over
15 long-term health care.

16 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Everybody is
17 coming to Bergen County, but we don't have any say
18 over this project, this is Hudson County.

19 AUDIENCE VOICE: Well said.

20 [APPLAUSE]

21 MS. GLASS: This plant will be on the
22 border of Ridgefield and North Bergen. The air is
23 going to travel, and it's going to come to Bergen
24 County.

25 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I understand, all

1 I'm saying, and I understand everybody's argument,
2 I'm not for or against it, I'm just telling you, I
3 think you're in the wrong venue, I think you should
4 be in Hudson County first, and, then, when they get
5 onboard, come see us in Bergen County, that's my
6 point.

7 MS. GLASS: I understand that, but,
8 frankly, Hudson County, North Bergen is looking at
9 tax revenues and not looking at long-term health
10 concerns.

11 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you.

12 MS. GLASS: That's their bottom line.

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Okay.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

15 Jan Barry.

16 MR. BARRY: Hi.

17 I live in Teaneck. Sorry for the
18 delay, there's a crowd in the hallway quite a ways.

19 I'm on the board of the New Jersey
20 Highlands Coalition. We have clean water in the half
21 of state that gets water from the Highlands, because
22 there's regional planning. There's no regional
23 planning in New Jersey regarding air quality. That's
24 why we need to talk about this situation in Bergen
25 County, and we'll talk about it in Essex County, and

1 we'll talk about it in Hudson County, because we all
2 share the same air corridor.

3 I have bronchitis. It gets worse under
4 certain air conditions. Many elderly people,
5 particularly in Newark, have high levels of asthma
6 right now under current conditions of the air. So
7 that's just one additional aspect of this that needs
8 to be addressed.

9 This plant is not needed in New Jersey,
10 and yet we're saying, well, we need to take it.

11 We need to start addressing our own
12 responsibilities as a region for having cleaner air.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Eleanor Grayzel.

17 MS. GRAYZEL: I'm Eleanor Grayzel from
18 Englewood, New Jersey.

19 I'm here because I'm concerned about
20 the air quality also.

21 There are air pollutants emitted from
22 these power plants that cause cancer, respiratory
23 disease, birth defects, cancers and chronic health
24 impacts, liver, kidney, reproductive, cardiovascular
25 issues. I urge you to oppose the Meadowlands power

1 plant.

2 Thank you.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

5 Rick Sabato.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 MR. SABATO: Rick Sabato, long life
8 resident of Bergen County. I reside at 176 Mill
9 Street, Westwood, New Jersey.

10 I represent the Bergen County Building
11 Trades, 25,000 members, and that equates to 100,000
12 people, with family members.

13 And she votes; we vote.

14 And, listen, all of you are friends of
15 us up here at the Freeholder Board.

16 The last time, at the workshop, they
17 came here, they want to attack Bergen County. Go to
18 Hudson County and attack them. This ain't the venue
19 here. I'm here to support you, the Freeholder Board
20 tonight. And I'm here with all my members to support
21 all seven of you. All right.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 MR. SABATO: We don't need the abuse
24 from the environmentalists. All right. We have done
25 Highlands, the Highlands Act. Jim McGreevey brought

1 it up. We were in favor of the Highlands Act, the
2 building trades, because we know it would be more
3 development in the urban areas. We were for clean
4 water. We're for clean energy, but it's not going to
5 get us there right now. Solar and wind, we install
6 all those systems.

7 All right. We can't impose huge bills
8 on our residents here in Bergen County, the
9 one million residents that live here. You're talking
10 double the electric bill, double or triple.

11 You know what the state legislators did
12 here with this nuclear power plant out in Salem
13 County? They gave them the subsidies. It was a huge
14 fight, but that's what they need. They need
15 subsidies for clean energy.

16 Great water systems, that's what it's
17 going to be, great water, it's going to be clean
18 water going into the power plant.

19 I sat with the Riverkeeper. He was a
20 little upset that there were out-of-towners came up
21 here, the Food and Water commission, and didn't tell
22 him that they're coming into their jurisdiction. We
23 work directly with the Riverkeeper every day, so I'm
24 here to support the Freeholder Board. Let's go down
25 to Hudson County, we'll be down there too.

1 Thank you.

2 [APPLAUSE]

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Laurie Ludmar.

4 MS. LUDMAR: My name is Laurie Ludmar.

5 I've been living in Teaneck now for probably over
6 26 years.

7 I am a mother and a grandmother, and
8 I'm very, very concerned about the gas plant. And I
9 see there are a lot of guys here, and I understand
10 that they're concerned for work. Absolutely.
11 Everybody needs a job, everybody wants a job, and
12 absolutely my sympathy goes out with these guys, but
13 to do it through fossil fuel is not the way.
14 Renewable energy is the way. It's the way now, it's
15 the way into the future.

16 I can talk about the bad health that
17 this gas plant, the air, I mean it's already been
18 said, there are other ways to create jobs, good jobs,
19 than through a gas plant using fracked gas. And it's
20 not a lie.

21 MR. SABATO: It's a lie!

22 MS. LUDMAR: And it's not a lie. If
23 you look to the science of it, you'll see it's a
24 fact, and you will see what is on the horizon is not
25 creating more fossil fuel. That's not on the

1 horizon. If that's on the horizon, we don't have a
2 horizon.

3 Your children, your grandchildren,
4 won't have a place. It has to stop. We have to be
5 forward thinking.

6 Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Bruce Packer.

10 MAYOR PACKER: Bruce Packer, mayor of
11 Glen Rock.

12 I've actually prepared some comments,
13 but I'm not going to read them. I'm going to speak a
14 little --

15 AUDIENCE VOICE: You have Glen Rock and
16 Ridgewood that's here!

17 MAYOR PACKER: Hello! Glen Rock is
18 awesome!

19 AUDIENCE VOICE: Taxes are high too.

20 MAYOR PACKER: Can I speak?

21 Thank you.

22 If you want to speak, sign up, thank
23 you, even though you're from Glen Rock and you're
24 awesome, and I'm cutting into my time.

25 I actually wanted to address what

1 Freeholder Sullivan said. So, most of what I was
2 going to say has already been addressed.

3 Like 40 something municipalities in
4 Bergen County, Glen Rock signed a resolution opposing
5 the power plant. The power plant is not in Glen
6 Rock, so why do we bother doing this? You know, why
7 are we here and why am I here?

8 AUDIENCE VOICE: Yeah.

9 MAYOR PACKER: First of all, 40
10 something municipalities signed on, which means 40
11 something mayors -- I think I'm the only mayor here
12 to talk, because too many people are afraid to
13 express their opinion in front of a room like this,
14 and, okay, I'm not running again, so I'm not losing
15 any votes, but that's what people worry about, and
16 that's wrong.

17 If you believe that climate change is
18 real, and I know that you all do, I think it our
19 responsibility to speak up about it when it's right
20 in our backyard. Whether or not it's in Bergen
21 County or right near the border, it's going to affect
22 all of us, so I think it's perfectly right for people
23 to be coming here to talk about it, because passing
24 the resolution opposing it carries some power, and
25 you all know that, a lot more power than the one that

1 40 something municipalities passed, including Glen
2 Rock.

3 So how many?

4 AUDIENCE VOICE: 48.

5 MAYOR PACKER: 48 municipalities, and,
6 you know, I am always for labor first, and I hope
7 that we can find a way to create jobs in a way that
8 some of us don't have to oppose for other reasons.
9 And I'm sorry that if this didn't happen, it would
10 cost jobs that would otherwise happen. I want people
11 to have jobs and work, but not with this plant, so
12 please consider opposing it.

13 Thank you for your consideration.

14 Many of you have come to a lot more
15 Glen Rock meetings than Freeholders, but now I've
16 been to one so I'll try to catch up, and I do thank
17 you all for all you do.

18 Thank you.

19 [APPLAUSE]

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

21 Dan Gumble.

22 MR. GUMBLE: Good evening.

23 Dan Gumble, 630 Chase Avenue,
24 Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

25 Thanks for taking the opportunity to

1 let me speak.

2 There's a lot of statements that were
3 said this evening, a couple of them are regarding the
4 power plant.

5 First of all, there's a problem with
6 the infrastructure throughout the entire country.
7 This power plant is going to be built not in the
8 Meadowlands, which I live in, by the way, it's going
9 to be sent to New York. However, there's a national
10 grid. In the event that there's power to be sent
11 anywhere else, it can be distributed to our
12 neighborhoods.

13 Right now, any power plant that is
14 built is going to be the cleanest possible energy
15 plant built, and that goes for anything that's built
16 today, this won't be built for a few years, or
17 anything that's been built in the past. It creates a
18 lot of jobs. It's a privately funded project, which
19 would cost the taxpayers nothing and it is in Hudson
20 County. And I think that this venue should be in
21 Hudson County and not in Bergen, but we are here this
22 evening. And I do like to say that a lot of people
23 here in this room are here in support of it because
24 it creates jobs.

25 We do build wind farms, we do build

1 solar, however, today it's a supplement to the power
2 that's needed. There's just not enough power out
3 there.

4 If this does not happen, eventually our
5 neighboring state of Pennsylvania will burn more and
6 more coal, and that coal will come over to New
7 Jersey.

8 So I appreciate the time to speak here
9 this evening, and I'd like you to, like Freeholder
10 Sullivan said, bring it to Hudson County, where it
11 belongs.

12 Thank you.

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Carol Bratman.

15 MS. BRATMAN: Thank you.

16 My name is Carol Bratman. I'm a
17 resident of Teaneck, but I used to live in North
18 Bergen.

19 I'm not going to talk science or
20 anything, I'm not going to talk jobs, it's all been
21 said, I'm just going to talk about a personal
22 cautionary tale for everyone.

23 We all need clean air, that's a fact.

24 We all need clean water and food that's
25 healthy.

1 I moved to Teaneck thinking that it was
2 a very clean, wonderful community. I've been living
3 there 45 years. Both my daughters grew up there.
4 Two years ago, within six weeks, both my daughters
5 were diagnosed with cancer, one was 37, one was 41.
6 There is no genetic issue involved. And you wonder,
7 how does this happen?

8 We were told all along from Suez, the
9 water is clean.

10 Well, guess what? After I got through
11 the shock of it, I kept thinking what could be the
12 cause, it had to be something environmental. I had
13 my water tested. It came back on a scale of 1 to
14 100, a 46.

15 What was in my water?

16 Lead, arsenic, and dye chromates.

17 Now, I contacted Suez. Again they
18 said, "Our water is clean."

19 That was last year.

20 This year we just got a letter from
21 Suez saying, you know what, there's lead in the
22 water.

23 All of these are carcinogens.

24 Where does it come from? The
25 environment. It comes from the air, it comes from

1 the water, it comes from the ground.

2 I don't want anyone else to have to go
3 through what my family has gone through, and so I ask
4 you all to consider the environmental impact of any
5 kind of building anywhere. You were very excited
6 about giving a grant for creating green space in
7 Wyckoff, and you were all very pleased and very
8 generous about that grant, and I commend you for
9 that, all I ask is that you consider what
10 environmental impact it has on our children.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Ken Dolsky.

15 MR. DOLSKY: Good evening. Thank you
16 for giving me a few minutes to speak.

17 A week ago, I spoke to you about a
18 resolution opposing the Meadowlands power plant,
19 asking you to put it on your agenda tonight.

20 And I mentioned a similar exercise we
21 went through on the Pilgrim Pipeline project and the
22 same issue of union jobs being the silent 800-pound
23 gorilla, although not so silent this evening, and I
24 believe that caused you to struggle to produce a very
25 weak resolution as a compromise.

1 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

2 MR. DOLSKY: I see we're on really good
3 behavior here.

4 This generated a comment from you to
5 the effect that after all the fuss over the Pilgrim
6 resolution, it never got built, the pipeline never
7 got built. The implication was that resolutions
8 don't have any affect and our efforts were futile.

9 Let me demonstrate and explain one way
10 in which resolutions stopped that pipeline.

11 All pipelines need a pumping station at
12 their starting point. Pilgrim needed one in Albany
13 at the depot where the trains were delivering Bakken
14 oil.

15 The company that owns the trains and
16 the facilities to offload them and pump the oil onto
17 barges is Global Partners LLC. Global owns the
18 property where the trains are offloaded. Pilgrim
19 asked them to lease space to Pilgrim for its pumping
20 station. Global refused to allow construction of
21 pipeline related equipment at its Albany terminal,
22 and they cited the extensive environmental processes
23 Pilgrim would need to go through, and then they
24 stated: "Equally important, Pilgrim must acquire
25 access to multiple properties along the pipeline

1 route, a herculean task in light of the uniform
2 opposition to the project both in New York and
3 New Jersey," and then they added the footnote which
4 said, "For a list of municipalities in New York and
5 New Jersey that have adopted resolutions opposing the
6 pipeline, see
7 <https://stoppilgrimpipeline.com/resolutions>," that's
8 the page on our website showing all the municipal
9 resolutions.

10 So on that not being the only reason
11 that the pipeline was not built, it is clear that our
12 resolutions impacted the willingness of companies to
13 do business with Pilgrim and had a role in stopping
14 this pipeline.

15 Municipalities standing together, as
16 the 48 towns in Bergen County have done, and
17 demonstrating their position through resolutions,
18 have great political power and influence.

19 You cannot argue it is a futile effort
20 as a reason for avoiding your responsibility to
21 protect the residents of Bergen County.

22 And the reason that we're here and not
23 necessarily in Hudson is Hudson County has no more
24 power than you do to stop this, it's a matter of
25 politics and showing mass numbers and influencing the

1 governor, who does have the power to stop it.

2 Thank you.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So I just wanted
6 to address, like I did last week, the fact that last
7 week it was all about our decision, you mentioned the
8 unions and that's why this Board didn't make
9 decisions, but on the way out the door, without me
10 having the opportunity to respond, you talked about a
11 weak resolution.

12 You know, I take offense to the fact
13 that this Board took action. It took action that you
14 guys repeatedly came to the meeting asking for.
15 Because it wasn't exactly what you wanted and how you
16 wanted it, you weren't satisfied.

17 That seems to always be the problem, no
18 matter how many times you guys come, you're never
19 satisfied with the decisions we make.

20 We passed a resolution opposing the
21 pipeline as it stood and where it was located,
22 because that's how this Board felt after many, many
23 meetings and many, many discussions, and that wasn't
24 satisfactory to you. I want you to know, I take
25 offense to the fact that you're going to come up here

1 again two weeks in a row and insult this board on
2 actions that we've taken.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 MR. DOLSKY: We want what's best for
5 everybody.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Lauren Schreyer.

7 MS. SCHREYER: Hello.

8 So, I have a couple of points.

9 First of all, one thing that hasn't
10 been mentioned is property values.

11 I think that probably a lot of people
12 in this room are homeowners, and if we're living in
13 an area that's going to be getting a lot more air
14 pollution, obviously the property values are going to
15 go down and this is going to become a less desirable
16 place to live, so you have to think of the long-term
17 economic implications. Even if it creates jobs in
18 the short-term and a few in the long-term, is it
19 really going to have an overall good effect.

20 And the other thing is, I mean, this is
21 not even for us, this is for New York City, at least
22 for the most part. And I feel like, you know,
23 New Jersey has gotten a lot of pollution over the
24 years that we're now cleaning up to this day because
25 New York City has dumped its waste on us over the

1 decades overall pretty much. So I kind of feel like
2 this is just another instance of that.

3 And the thing is like if we are not
4 going to switch to renewables now, then when? You
5 can see the ICCD reports. You can see that basically
6 we're running out of time. And people are saying,
7 "Oh, it's not time yet. It's not time yet."

8 Then when will it be time? We're going
9 to have to invest in it or we're going to have to pay
10 later. It's either invest now or pay later.

11 Thank you.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Tom Latourette.

14 MR. LATOURETTE: Hi. Tom Latourette
15 from Rutherford.

16 I'm here today as a concerned citizen
17 and because I have a nine-year-old daughter at home
18 who breathes, and one of her best friends who has
19 asthma and will find it much more difficult to
20 breathe if this plant is approved and the pollution
21 goes into the air, which will happen if it's
22 approved.

23 About the Hudson County and Bergen
24 County debate, I just wanted to mention, there is, in
25 regards to what another gentleman said, the plant

1 will require 8.6 million gallons of sewer discharge
2 water per day to cool the plant, some of which will
3 be released as steam. That water will come from the
4 Bergen County Utilities Authority, across the
5 Hackensack River in Little Ferry, still in
6 Bergen County, from a new two-way pipeline.

7 So I think your showing opposition
8 might have some input on their decision-making,
9 perhaps.

10 The cooling water will pickup or can
11 pickup heavy metals, such as lead and mercury, from
12 the pipes and volatile organic compounds, as well as
13 treatments such as algaecides and fungicides, all of
14 which evaporate in the water and will be released in
15 the steam from comes out of the smokestacks, and that
16 will respect no county borders. Pollution doesn't
17 care about Hudson County or Bergen County, it will go
18 with the prevailing wind. Much of it will remain
19 trapped in the Meadowlands basin, where many of us
20 live.

21 And I wanted to speak a moment about
22 the political reality in New Jersey. We all know
23 realistically we face a much harder battle in
24 Hudson County, because of the mayor of Bergen County
25 [sic] who also happens to be a very powerful state

1 senator --

2 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: North Bergen?

3 MR. LATOURETTE: North Bergen. And has
4 pretty much shutdown opposition in Hudson County, due
5 to the nature of his long-term power position. So
6 this is a chance for Bergen County to be a voice of
7 reason, whereas in opposition to the voices of greed
8 and short-term profit and sacrifice to long-term
9 health.

10 I hope you'll fulfill your duty to
11 support the health and safety of the residents of
12 Bergen County and support a resolution against.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 [APPLAUSE]

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

16 Freeholder Sullivan.

17 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: The only thing I
18 want to address is, we continue to talk about the
19 water that's going to be used for the cooling towers.
20 It's called "gray water."

21 I'm going to ask, does anyone know what
22 happens to the water if it is not used for the
23 cooling towers? It goes back in the Hackensack
24 River.

25 So it's treated as best it can be

1 treated. It's used for the cooling tower. If this
2 project were to go through, you're saving all those
3 millions of gallons that are polluted, according to
4 everyone here, that would go right into the
5 Hackensack River, you could forget about fishing
6 there in our lifetime.

7 AUDIENCE VOICE: But it evaporates into
8 the air.

9 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm sorry. I
10 didn't interrupt you when you were speaking. I'm not
11 being arrogant, I'm just telling people that we
12 continue to talk about the same issue, yet we don't
13 understand what gray water is. I think we need to
14 find out. We all need to educate ourselves about
15 gray water.

16 Thank you.

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: From Allendale,
19 Julie Strite (phonetic). Julie from Allendale.

20 It says Julie. I can't read her last
21 name.

22 Cassandra Worthington.

23 MS. WORTHINGTON: My name is Cassandra
24 Worthington. I'm affiliated with Food & Water Watch.

25 My stake in this game is that when we

1 talk about the vulnerable people who are going to be
2 affected by this plant, I have asthma, so we're
3 talking about me.

4 This fracked gas power plant will be
5 the largest source of air pollution and greenhouse
6 gases in New Jersey and New York. This is our
7 problem, because the pollution from this power plant
8 will inundate Bergen County.

9 The area in Bergen County that will be
10 impacted by it the most is already struggling with
11 significant air pollution.

12 As an EMT, I have seen the effects of
13 asthma and COPD, and, as you must already know, the
14 American Lung Association's State of the Air Report
15 rated Bergen County very poorly, with an F in ozone
16 levels, and claimed that Bergen County has some of
17 the highest populations with pediatric and adult
18 asthma, COPD, and lung cancer.

19 These conditions will only be
20 exacerbated by additional volumes of air pollution
21 and ozone precursors. If this plant is built, more
22 residents in Bergen County will incur healthcare and
23 financial costs associated with increased pollution.
24 Please protect our most vulnerable residents.

25 The EPA reviewed our air quality and

1 came up with the standard of .07 parts per million of
2 ozone precursors that is within a healthy rate.

3 And my background is in teaching, and
4 all teachers know that you cannot give up on someone
5 when they're failing. You put your energy into this
6 work, likewise, we need to act in protecting our air
7 and keeping us from failing next year.

8 It's not fair that this county will be
9 using Bergen County tax dollars for a wastewater
10 pipeline to cool down the power plant. As you know,
11 this plant does not serve this county or this state.
12 New York City gets all the energy and we get the
13 pollution.

14 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

15 MS. WORTHINGTON: Forty-eight towns in
16 Bergen County have passed resolutions to oppose the
17 project, and we ask you to join in passing the
18 resolution too.

19 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

20 MS. WORTHINGTON: And on a personal
21 note, my dad is the president of a construction union
22 at home. I understand what it feels like --

23 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

24 AUDIENCE VOICE: Shame on you! Shame
25 on you!

1 AUDIENCE VOICE: Go home!

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please let her
3 speak.

4 MS. WORTHINGTON: I am a teacher.
5 Can you listen, please?

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please have respect
7 for the speaker.

8 AUDIENCE VOICE: Maybe if she turned
9 around.

10 MS. WORTHINGTON: On a personal note, I
11 know what it's like to have a dad who is between
12 jobs, temporary jobs.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please address us.

14 MS. WORTHINGTON: And it sucks, and I
15 understand that. This is not about that. This is
16 about your children breathing in this air.

17 Thank you.

18 [APPLAUSE]

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Wendy Esparca.

20 MS. ESPARCA: I live in North Bergen,
21 but I came. You may ask why I'm here, I came here in
22 support of my Bergen County friends, because they
23 cannot be here tonight. I want to speak on their
24 behalf.

25 I just want to say that I'm very

1 concerned about this power plant and what it's going
2 to do to the environment. I think that we can no
3 longer ignore what's happening, you know. Every year
4 hurricanes are getting worse, we have more
5 earthquakes, we have more natural disasters, and the
6 buildings are costing us. We can just not take that
7 anymore.

8 I believe that climate change is real
9 and that we need to start taking action now, and I
10 really urge you to oppose to this power plant.

11 Thank you.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

14 Ted Glick.

15 MR. GLICK: Good evening.

16 My name is Ted Glick. I'm from
17 Bloomfield, New Jersey.

18 I'm the president of 350 New Jersey
19 Rockland, which works throughout the state.

20 Primarily from the standpoint of the
21 climate crisis, I think it is kind of noteworthy, I
22 haven't heard anybody who has spoken tonight say that
23 they don't think that the climate crisis is real.
24 Maybe that's progress, right? Maybe there are a few
25 who don't think that the climate crisis is real.

1 Maybe people who experienced Superstorm Sandy, if you
2 think what happened to them, and that incredible
3 hurricane that made a left turn to come into the
4 mainland, where every other hurricane I've ever seen
5 goes out to sea, that says something about what's
6 happening to our changing climate.

7 I didn't eat for two weeks in November
8 of last year as part of a climate fast --

9 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

10 MR. GLICK: -- down in Trenton, focused
11 on Gov. Murphy, calling upon --

12 [LAUGHTER]

13 MR. GLICK: -- calling upon Gov. Murphy
14 to put a moratorium on all 12, including the
15 Meadowlands, all 12 of the fossil fuel expansion
16 projects that right now are in the process of either
17 being approved or not approved or permitted. And I
18 didn't eat for those two weeks, and there are about
19 50 other people around the state who didn't eat for
20 between 1 and 14 days. I didn't eat for those
21 14 days, I only drank water and I took potassium and
22 salt and vitamin C, that was it. And I did it
23 because I believe from my 15 years, 15 years of
24 working in this area of global warming and the
25 climate crisis, that we are in really, really deep

1 you know what in this world, in this country, in this
2 state. And the state needs to give leadership, and
3 local people like those 48 mayors and town councils
4 in Bergen County need to give leadership on this
5 issue right now. We don't have a lot of time to
6 solve this. We got to get serious about it now. We
7 can't dig a deeper hole by building more and more
8 fossil fuel plants, gas pipelines, increasing
9 fracking and all the rest of it. That's why I fasted
10 and that's why I continue to do this work.

11 I urge --

12 AUDIENCE VOICE: Eat!

13 MR. GLICK: -- all of you in this room,
14 all of you to think about your children and your
15 grandchildren and the seven generations to come and
16 what they're facing.

17 I understand about jobs, I get it.

18 AUDIENCE VOICE: No, you don't, you
19 don't eat.

20 MR. GLICK: The reality is a great deal
21 many more jobs will be created when we get serious
22 about the shift to renewable energy. Renewable
23 energy is growing about 10 times as fast as the rest
24 of the economy over the last number of years, so it's
25 a win/win/win if we look at what's really going on

1 and take action accordingly.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 AUDIENCE VOICE: Eat!

6 AUDIENCE VOICE: Give that guy a
7 hot dog.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're going to have
9 a five-minute break.

10 We need a motion.

11 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

12 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

14 (All present Freeholders respond in the
15 affirmative.)

16 (A short recess is held.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
18 to go back into the public session?

19 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

22 (All present Freeholders respond in the
23 affirmative.)

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We're back in
2 the public.

3 I ask everyone to please quiet down,
4 our stenographer cannot do her job taking notes. So
5 please, I beg you, respect the speaker who's at the
6 podium, and I ask anyone who's coming up to speak to
7 please address the Board and not the public.

8 Thank you.

9 Hannah Kohn.

10 MS. KOHN: Hi. My name is Hannah Kohn.
11 I'm here on behalf of --

12 AUDIENCE VOICE: I can't hear you.

13 MS. KOHN: Can you hear me now?

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is the mic off?

15 MS. KOHN: Hi. My name is Hannah Kohn.
16 I'm here on behalf of my grandmother, who can't be
17 here tonight. She lives in Edgewater, and she's
18 worked for decades in part with the Hackensack
19 Riverkeeper to improve the environment and water
20 quality in this area. And as her granddaughter, I
21 felt obligated to continue her efforts, even though
22 she couldn't be here tonight.

23 Wetlands such as the Meadowlands serve
24 many beneficial functions, they are a natural
25 filtration system, purifying our water; they preserve

1 biodiversity by hosting a great number of plant and
2 animal species; they play a crucial role in flood
3 mitigation by absorbing stormwater, protecting urban
4 or residential communities in nearby flood zones.

5 The construction of and pollution from
6 the proposed plant could affect quantity and quality
7 of water flows, thereby harming the delicate animal
8 and plant habitats in the wetlands and undermining
9 critical hydrological functions.

10 The rehabilitation of the Meadowlands,
11 which has been a triumph for local groups such as the
12 Hackensack Riverkeeper that have worked to recover
13 this area, would be squandered in order to provide
14 power to the New York City residents. And digging a
15 40-foot trench through the Meadowlands to connect to
16 Williams Transco pipeline would be damaging to these
17 sensitive wetlands.

18 Also, the connection to the Williams
19 pipeline may require upgrades to the line and
20 expansion of its compressor station at Riverdale,
21 risking increases in dangerous emissions from the
22 compressor station.

23 I'm proud to be the granddaughter of
24 somebody who's worked in this county for so many
25 decades to improve the environment, to cleanup the

1 toxic waste and dumping that has often happened from
2 New York City.

3 And as we've just started to see the
4 reclamation of the Meadowlands and the flourishing
5 environment that has come as a result from that, I
6 really urge this Board of Chosen Freeholders to
7 oppose the Meadowlands plant and protect the
8 environment.

9 Thank you so much for having me here
10 today, I appreciate it.

11 [APPLAUSE]

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

13 Alec Melman.

14 AUDIENCE VOICE: Put your hat back on.

15 MR. MELMAN: I don't know what I got
16 myself into. This is the only meeting I could make
17 it to. It's regarding a Complete Streets policy for
18 the county, which I don't know why there isn't one
19 yet. I encourage the Freeholders to please adopt
20 one.

21 But specifically I came to discuss
22 Degraw Avenue and connecting Overpeck Park. I'm a
23 biker, a commuter biker, and there's no way currently
24 to get from one side of the park to the other, from
25 Leonia to Teaneck. And that is a road that's in

1 desperate need of some -- there's no sidewalk,
2 there's no place for bikes, but there's plenty of
3 room for cars. I don't even know where to begin, so
4 I came here, and that's all I came to say. So
5 evidently they have a lot more to say.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Melman.

8 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you for
9 coming up tonight. I'm going to work with the
10 Administrator and the Parks Director to see what we
11 can do to try to resolve that. So my aide will give
12 you the number so you can contact my office during
13 the week so you can give me a little bit more detail.
14 Okay?

15 MR. MELMAN: I would love it.

16 Thank you.

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Pranita Bijlani.

19 Can we please keep it quiet to give
20 someone a chance to speak.

21 MS. BIJLANI: Hi. My name is Pranita
22 Bijlani, and I'm here to urge the Freeholders to
23 support the resolution to oppose the Meadowlands
24 power plant.

25 I've come all the way from Union

1 County, but I grew up here in Bergen County and my
2 parents still live here in Haworth and they're
3 elderly.

4 I'm very concerned about the hundreds
5 of tons of toxic pollution that would be emitted from
6 by the power plant and how it would compromise and
7 harm vulnerable populations, such as my elderly
8 parents, as well as young children in the area. I am
9 a school teacher. I care about children as well.

10 I'm also concerned about the
11 irretrievable damage this power plant would do to the
12 unique ecology of the area. I frequent the
13 Meadowlands Environmental Center, and I know the
14 enormous percentage of migratory birds in the entire
15 continent who come to the Meadowlands.

16 The wetlands, as the speaker a couple
17 people before me said, also helps filter water and
18 mitigate damage from flooding. The residents of
19 Bergen County care a lot about the quality of life
20 and the surrounding environment, not just supplying
21 energy to New York City.

22 The power plant will also be the second
23 largest source of greenhouse gases in the state, and
24 will be a huge step backwards and kind of a
25 contradictory step in what our state is moving

1 towards in terms of getting off greenhouse gases and
2 fossil fuels. And this is an urgent matter, as
3 others have brought up, because we're at a planetary
4 crisis, looking at the ITCC report. We have got
5 12 years, we're really kind of at the tipping point
6 or beyond the tipping point, really. It can no
7 longer be ignored. We don't want any additional
8 Superstorm Sandys in the state. The whole world is
9 really depending on some of our decisions.

10 The time to create jobs is in renewable
11 energy, not in fossil fuel plants, the
12 infrastructure. We need to meet and beat our
13 transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050,
14 as the governor has pledged.

15 Thanks very much.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Paul Tomasko.

19 MR. TOMASKO: Good evening, ladies and
20 gentlemen. It's very nice to be here with you for
21 the first time in quite a number of years.

22 I don't know the resolution that you
23 say you passed a week or so ago, Freeholder Tanelli,
24 but if indeed it is opposing this power plant, I
25 thank you and commend this Board for it.

1 What I can do is tell you that my town
2 is one of the 48 that passed the resolution that was
3 made for us by the Food & Water Watch people, and
4 also that the Bergen County League of Municipalities
5 unanimous -- which speaks, by the way, for all 70
6 towns in this fine county -- unanimously passed the
7 same resolution. I have never, in all the years that
8 I've given my time to my town, seen a better
9 researched, more comprehensive resolution than the
10 one that these people from Food & Water Watch put
11 together for us.

12 AUDIENCE VOICE: Because they're all
13 attorneys.

14 MR. TOMASKO: And, in fact, there are
15 38 whereas' and 27 footnotes in that resolution.

16 I would like to read a couple of
17 sentences from just one of those whereas'. It's the
18 25th whereas.

19 AUDIENCE VOICE: Whereas go sit down.

20 MR. TOMASKO: Whereas, in the
21 alternative approach to producing energy from solar
22 panels, which would avoid all of the environmental
23 and health issues noted in this resolution, while
24 still providing new jobs and other financial benefits
25 to local towns and would be in conformance with

1 Gov. Murphy's goal to increase the use of renewable
2 energy, even if all the electricity was sold to
3 New York City, could potentially gain local support
4 and should be considered.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for
6 hearing me, and I wish you a good evening. And also
7 I commend your patience for that you've shown to all
8 of us in this regard.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

10 [APPLAUSE]

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Excuse me,
12 Mr. Tomasko, the resolution that they spoke about was
13 for the pipeline, and if I'm not mistaken that was in
14 2015, correct?

15 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Yes, it was about
16 the pipeline, mayor.

17 MR. TOMASKO: Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We wanted to clarify
19 that.

20 Mike Schneider.

21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Ladies and gentlemen,
22 Freeholder Board, I appreciate the few minutes you're
23 going to give me to speak.

24 I apologize. I got here late, so I've
25 been sitting in the back of the room listening to a

1 lot of comments made tonight, and I just want to
2 speak on a few things.

3 I represent the insulators, but I'm
4 also a lifelong member -- I'm sorry, 62 years -- of
5 Bergen County. I was originally born in North
6 Bergen, and I know the area that this thing is going
7 to be built in. I was in the park on regular
8 occasions celebrating with my family on a lot of
9 different events. It is not part of the pristine
10 Meadowlands, as everybody says it is. It's a waste
11 area. There's nothing but garbage and junk back
12 there. It's been there for years. It's been that
13 way for years.

14 People are talking about you can't have
15 fossil fuel anymore, you need different kinds of
16 energy.

17 Well, we talked about solar. There's
18 not enough juice created by solar to do the job a
19 power house does.

20 You want to talk about wind. They
21 wanted to put wind turbines up across the coast, and
22 that got knocked down. Nobody wants them in their
23 backyard, nobody wants them out in the ocean. So you
24 don't want wind, you don't want coal, and you sure as
25 hell don't want nuclear, so what are you going to do?

1 You have to have energy.

2 We're talking about pollution. If
3 everybody in this room didn't drive here tonight, you
4 wouldn't have any pollution. The amount of cars that
5 it took everybody to get here tonight is going to
6 cause more pollution than that power house will put
7 out in a month.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 MR. SCHNEIDER: We just did a
10 \$400 million new scrubber down at Konica Phillips.
11 The air that comes out of that is almost as clean as
12 any air you're going to find anywhere. The
13 technology today exists to make the air cleaner than
14 everybody is making this out to be. It's not going
15 to be the biggest polluter in the country. That's
16 just BS.

17 I appreciate the time for hearing me.
18 Thank you.

19 [APPLAUSE]

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Aaron Nickeson.
21 Karen Nickeson.

22 AUDIENCE VOICE: She's out of gas.

23 MS. NICKESON: Good evening.

24 My name is Karen Nickeson. I'm the
25 conservation chair of Bergen County Audubon Society.

1 I'm here on behalf of our 2,000 members, who would
2 like to register their strong opposition to the power
3 plant and pipeline.

4 Thank you so much for your leadership
5 and your consideration.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

7 Jeff Rapaport.

8 MR. RAPAPORT: We're here, I'm here
9 because I need you. Climate change is real. I'm a
10 grandparent. I look at my four-year-old, who's a
11 powerhouse, but he can't fight for himself right now.
12 I told you this four years ago in a different matter
13 when another one was one-year-old. I take this very
14 seriously, because it's important to me. I don't
15 care what I leave them materially, I don't really
16 care about any of those things, I want to leave them
17 a planet.

18 Natural gas, 15 years ago, was
19 considered the ideal bridge fuel. T. Boone Pickens
20 from Mason Petroleum was pushing it. Mayor Bloomberg
21 of New York City, major efforts into increasing
22 natural gas.

23 There's only one problem. On the way
24 to the forum, it is extraction for fracking. Natural
25 gas has a wastage rate of about 5.7 percent in terms

1 of extraction, and that doesn't count the leakage
2 that takes place while it's transported.

3 Methane natural gas, the same thing, is
4 87 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO₂ for
5 decades into the future.

6 During a time when we may be needing
7 our scientists to be able to research this, to give
8 them a little bit of breathing room, we're throwing
9 this massive greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. I
10 urge you to consider that, in addition to all the
11 pollution that everybody's talking about:

12 A. I come from a family of working
13 people. I come from a brother who was a major labor
14 union leader. I have very big sympathies there, and
15 I don't want to hear it in the background either.

16 AUDIENCE VOICE: Oh!

17 MR. RAPAPORT: But the problem is not
18 them, it's with the jobs that could be created in the
19 alternative, if only we can dream about it. Like
20 Kennedy said, we're going to put a man on the moon in
21 10 years, and we did it. We can build windmills that
22 can hire many people and be good union labor. The
23 problem is the very short-term impact on the
24 structures as we know it could affect people and how
25 they make decisions, not of the consumer variety

1 either.

2 Listen, thank you for listening. I
3 appreciate everything you've done in the past, but we
4 have a major problem on our hands and it's getting
5 worse.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Tina Smith.

8 Stephanie Symonds.

9 MS. SYMONDS: Hello. Thank you guys
10 for taking the time to hear everybody out.

11 So I'm going to talk about ecosystems.

12 So the Hackensack Meadowlands, this
13 large ecosystem of wetlands supports remarkable
14 biodiversity.

15 Quoting the Fish and Wildlife Services
16 website: The Meadowlands have more than 275 species
17 of plants, 150 species of invertebrates, 45 species
18 of fish, 25 species of amphibians/reptiles, 332
19 species of birds and 24 species of mammals. This
20 includes 88 species of special emphasis or listed
21 species that are federally and state listed ones.

22 This ecosystem that we have is a
23 fragile environment that waterfowl and other species
24 of animals need. More than anything, this is an
25 environmental gem that we have and it serves a tool

1 for us to learn from, grow from, and to educate from,
2 something very much worth safeguarding.

3 In the last 150 years, we've done a
4 heck of a number on this ecosystem, from diking,
5 drilling and draining, which affected the ecology of
6 the water and its biological environment, to
7 illegally dumping sewerage, rubble, garbage and
8 hazardous waste into it. We know this.

9 Our misuse and pollution of the land
10 and water has brought invasive species, the
11 disappearance of certain species, and the presence of
12 seriously hazardous contaminants. These are some of
13 the frightening obstacles to the restoration of the
14 Meadowlands.

15 So now we come to the idea of building
16 a giant 1,200-megawatt electric generating power
17 plant on the border of North Bergen and the Borough
18 of Ridgefield. A power plant that, who are we
19 kidding, will pollute our already toxic air to power
20 NYC, alongside other serious damages. That ammonia,
21 nitrogen oxide, the heavy metals and chemicals, the
22 lead from the steam relief, the fungicides, the
23 algicides all have to settle somewhere, and that
24 which rises falls, falls into our river, falls into
25 our land, and falls into our sensitive wetlands.

1 Sensitive. Let's not even mention, our children's
2 health.

3 What will happen in the future, Chosen
4 Freeholders, is that with the use of this power plant
5 is our being stuck in environmental impact so large
6 and so ugly that we have nothing to hand down to our
7 children and their children. We don't learn from the
8 great teacher that's history, and we negate our
9 ability to understand the ecological value and
10 importance of these wetlands. We don't pave new ways
11 towards solutions to the bigger topic of pollution,
12 urban and human sprawl, and we keep on with the same
13 old same old, and, really, what can we say about
14 that?

15 The concept of an ecosystem teaches us
16 one thing, that everything is related to everything
17 else, and that nothing can be modified without
18 affecting something else.

19 The Meadowlands are something beautiful
20 to restore and share with our future generations.
21 It's something to highlight as something New Jersey
22 has and cares for and something we should continue to
23 learn from and safeguard.

24 Let's use our history as our teacher
25 and let's not take one step forward and two steps

1 back with this power plant. Thank you so much for
2 your time.

3 Thank you.

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Peggy Wong.

6 MS. WONG: It's getting late. I
7 realize you've all been here for quite a bit, and I
8 do appreciate the time you've given us and the
9 patience. I really wasn't going to come to tonight's
10 meeting, and, then again, I said to myself, no, I got
11 to make sure that they understand that the residents
12 of North Bergen do not all support this power plant
13 project. Some of us had a meeting with Mayor Sacco
14 about three weeks ago, it was during one of his
15 commissioner hearings. I got up and I spoke to him.
16 He knows me very well, because I've been very active
17 on the waterfront with our Hudson River walkway, and
18 I don't know if I've met any of you in regards to
19 that, but I've been involved. And during Hurricane
20 Sandy talking about climate change I had the sad and
21 dubious distinction of watching the walkway flood
22 over onto River Road, and it was a tremendous
23 catastrophe in the town of Edgewater. The municipal
24 building was closed for almost a week.

25 So if you want to talk about climate

1 change and not bleeding in it, I really don't
2 understand anyone who lives on the East Coast who
3 doesn't believe in it, but, nevertheless, there are
4 disagreements.

5 When we spoke to Mayor Sacco, I pointed
6 out to him something he knew very well.

7 No. 1. The application from this
8 developer was not invited by the State of New York or
9 the City of New York. The application was just
10 submitted, it was not by invitation.

11 The City of New York and the State of
12 New York, the power commission for the State of New
13 York says that they don't need additional energy and
14 this was in view of the fact that the plant up in
15 Westchester was closing, the nuclear power plant.

16 So this project is a speculative
17 project, and I said that to Mayor Sacco. He did not
18 deny it.

19 So you are being asked to vote down a
20 speculative project that is going to harm our air and
21 air quality and our environment. I mean, if this was
22 a done deal and it was hugely supported by everyone,
23 that's a different story; this is not hugely
24 supported. There are a lot of people in North Bergen
25 who will not speak up, for reasons that you can only

1 guess, but I felt that I had to come here. I'm a
2 lifelong resident of New Jersey as Hudson County, and
3 I do all my shopping in Bergen County, Edgewater,
4 Fort Lee, Paramus. My gym is in Hackensack. So, you
5 know, I'm sort of an adopted resident of your county,
6 but I felt that I wanted to come here and make you
7 consider the fact that you're being asked to vote
8 down a project that is a speculative project. Don't
9 put us in danger. New Jersey right now is already in
10 bad shape in terms of our environment. Our own
11 governor seems to be backtrack from this campaign
12 promises. It's getting to be a little bit a point of
13 disillusionment with some of our public officials,
14 and, I would plead with you, please, do the right
15 thing.

16 MR. MASLO: Time is up, ma'am.

17 MS. WONG: Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Ms. Wong, I just
19 want to clarify something. We're not voting on
20 anything. We don't have any jurisdiction on
21 anything. I just want to clarify it.

22 MS. WONG: No, but you can vote on a
23 resolution objecting to it, as the other 48 towns
24 have done.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

2 Jean Nietzsche.

3 MS. NIETSCHE: My name is Jeannie
4 Nietzsche and I live in Ridgefield, and I've lived in
5 town since I'm two-years-old.

6 She made a point, I think it was the
7 first one I heard tonight, and that was going to be
8 my first point. Mayor de Blasio has said he doesn't
9 need power, so I'm not sure why we're even thinking
10 about this. So New York doesn't need it. Unlike
11 what some people said, it's going to lower our
12 utility costs, it's not. It's not for New Jersey.
13 The only thing New Jersey is going to get, Bergen
14 County anyway, is pollution. That's all we're going
15 to get.

16 Ridgefield has a very large power
17 plant. Can we really afford to build two of them in
18 such close proximity to each other and poison
19 everyone? I mean, all the cases of asthma, all the
20 pulmonary problems, I'm not sure why you're even
21 thinking about it or why you shouldn't even hesitate
22 to pass this resolution that 48 towns have passed.
23 And it is disappointing about our governor. He's
24 supposedly the green governor. Is the green the
25 money or is the green the green energy that we should

1 be having?

2 AUDIENCE VOICE: Money.

3 MS. NIETSCHE: It is the money,
4 apparently, because he's not stepping in to save us
5 from this.

6 AUDIENCE VOICE: Save us! Save us!

7 MS. NIETSCHE: When is the time for
8 renewable energy? We're going to build a fossil fuel
9 plant in 2019 that has a life of what? What are we
10 doing?

11 I don't know why on earth you would
12 even consider not voting for this. If you want to
13 leave Bergen County a better place than when you
14 found it, than before you were elected as our
15 Freeholders, then I beg you to please come onboard,
16 join the 48 towns and say no, this is terrible
17 pollution for our people, for our air, for the
18 children, for everybody. I mean, you know, it
19 doesn't make sense.

20 And the fellows who want the jobs, I
21 get it too. I understand that. I lost my job at age
22 50 after 29 years as a research candidate. So
23 believe me, I know it. But you have Democrats in
24 Washington that want to rebuild every building in
25 America. Just think how much work you're going to

1 have. So please, please, please, consider it
2 seriously. Hudson County is not going to keep the
3 pollution in Hudson County.

4 MR. MASLO: Time is up.

5 MS. NIETSCHE: It's going to go where
6 the wind blows, and where the wind blows is well into
7 Bergen County. So I thank you for listening to me,
8 and I urge you, please vote for the resolution.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

10 [APPLAUSE]

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Donald DeAugustine.

12 MR. DeAUGUSTINE: Good evening. I'd
13 like to thank the Freeholder Board for giving me the
14 opportunity to get up here and state some of my views
15 and some of the facts that I have from my experience.
16 I've been a millwright for 40 years. I represent my
17 local as a business agent, Millwright Local #715. We
18 cover the whole State of New Jersey and we're
19 involved in wind energy, solar energy, power
20 generation.

21 We recently built a plant in Linden,
22 New Jersey that's using gray water, and I was
23 involved in that project. Some of the statements
24 that have been made about gray water are without any
25 merit. They utilize gray water from the sewerage

1 treatment plant that gets filtered and it goes
2 through the cooling towers and then comes back to the
3 authority.

4 There's a meter on it going out and a
5 meter on it going back in. The local government is
6 getting these subsidies, because the power utility is
7 getting billed on the way in and the way out on this
8 water, and it's getting put back out, after it's been
9 filtered in better shape than what they would be
10 dumping into the streams without that. So it's
11 another step of filtration that makes that actually
12 safer than what's getting dumped out of the secondary
13 filtration that's happening now at our local sewerage
14 authorities.

15 And it kind of upsets me that, you
16 know, the accusations that we don't care about our
17 families, that, you know, what about our children?
18 That's what I'm worried about. I'm worried about all
19 my members, they have families to feed. Is the bank
20 going to take a holiday until we discover solar or
21 wind energy that's affordable? We're going to be out
22 in the street and we'll be on welfare. I guess the
23 people that want to go green will be able to support
24 our families until this technology becomes
25 affordable.

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 MR. DeAUGUSTINE: We're going to work
3 ourselves out of the state.

4 So to come up with these resolutions
5 against the plant, you know, and taking these
6 fearmongering facts that they manipulate to make you
7 say, "Oh, my children! It's going to make me sick,"
8 let's look at the real facts, let's look at what's
9 going to happen in the near future.

10 We can't say where technology is going
11 to be in 20 years, because it's changing so quickly
12 but I guarantee you, if it's getting to be where it's
13 affordable to go with green energy throughout the
14 state, we're all behind it 100 percent, but we got to
15 get to that point. We're not there yet.

16 Thank you.

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: James Kontolios.

19 COUNCILMAN KONTOLIOS: James Kontolios,
20 912 Linden Avenue, Ridgely, New Jersey.

21 I'm going to use my three minutes
22 wisely and start off positive.

23 We would like to thank the county for
24 this spring paving Edgewater Avenue, Shaler Boulevard
25 and Hendricks Causeway. It's long overdue. The

1 potholes are killing us, so you can't do it fast
2 enough for us. Please come as soon as possible.

3 And I want to just refute what the
4 second speaker said about Mayor Suarez. When he was
5 in office at the time, he was in a 6/1 minority. He
6 did not support that project.

7 AUDIENCE VOICE: Oh, stop!

8 COUNCILMAN KONTOLIOS: He did not.

9 And I was not in office at the time.
10 This is my first term as a councilman. None of the
11 present councilmen were in office at the time, so
12 they did not support that project.

13 The rateables that we supposedly get
14 from PSE&G, the CSX railroad, we don't get, the state
15 takes the money, and, if they decide to appropriate
16 it to us, you know, it doesn't happen. We don't get
17 it that way, we've had to find new ways to get
18 rateables.

19 The Meadowlands money that we're
20 supposed to get by statute from 1969, that was line
21 item vetoed to us by Gov. Christie and we had to sue
22 the state to get the money.

23 So we're not getting all these great
24 rateables. That's not true either.

25 The constituents of Ridgefield elected

1 me. I'm here to send a message from them. They also
2 elected you. We're concerned about our water, we're
3 concerned about our air, we're concerned about
4 increased traffic going to this proposed power plant,
5 and we're also concerned about our property values.

6 Thank you very much for your time.
7 Have a good night.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Andy Benesch. Is
10 Andy Benesch here?

11 MR. BENESCH: Yes.

12 I want to thank the Freeholder Board
13 for giving me a chance to speak. I am new to Bergen
14 County, I moved in July from Middlesex County. I'm
15 active with the GreenFaith circle and also I'm on the
16 green team in my new town of Fair Lawn, and I see
17 that this is a huge issue. And --

18 AUDIENCE VOICE: Who's this guy?

19 MR. BENESCH: And I've also been going
20 to the health board meetings. I'm retired from the
21 state Department of Health, so although I was in the
22 regulatory area, I always heard about health issues,
23 including cancer clusters, so I know that it's very
24 important, and, therefore, I urge you to pass the
25 resolution stating that the power plant is not a good

1 idea.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

4 Paul Kaufman.

5 MR. KAUFMAN: Good evening. Thank you
6 for this opportunity.

7 I have many reasons why I'm opposed to
8 this power plant, I have chosen to focus on the issue
9 of the damage to the Meadowlands.

10 Several speakers recently --

11 AUDIENCE VOICE: Time is up! Time is
12 up!

13 MR. KAUFMAN: -- focused on that rather
14 forcefully, and all I want to say is I can remember
15 when the Meadowlands were the trash heap of Northern
16 New Jersey. I'm old enough to remember when it was a
17 sewer. It was used for toxic waste. It was used for
18 construction debris. It was used for all kinds of
19 garbage.

20 And the last number of decades, due to
21 the work of Hackensack Riverkeeper and a number of
22 dedicated environmentalists, the Meadowlands are
23 coming back, ready to resume the role of a repository
24 for water, a filter for water, prevention from
25 flooding and all the wonderful things which a wetland

1 is supposed to do. There are species that have
2 returned that haven't been in this neighborhood for
3 50 years, species of bird, fish, animals and plants,
4 and it's coming back.

5 My fear is that if this plant is built,
6 the gains of the last 50 years will be obliterated
7 and they may be permanently obliterated. So I'm
8 urging you to join with more than 40 other
9 municipalities in Bergen County and pass this
10 resolution opposing the Meadowlands power plant.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Christine Lepore.

15 MS. LEPORE: Thank you.

16 I know that you all have a precious job
17 and you are giving us your precious time.

18 I would like to state that I represent
19 a group from the north, the south, the east, and the
20 west of New Jersey. We are all concerned about each
21 other. This is a Mitsubishi financial investment
22 that is made for the point of preparing natural gas
23 to be put into a pipeline system and brought down
24 into the Newark Bay and exported.

25 You say that we need it for New Jersey.

1 It is not going to be used in New Jersey.

2 The product from this plant will not be
3 used in New York. New York has said no thank you, we
4 are not going to buy product that is from fossil
5 fuel.

6 The only product that this plant will
7 produce is to prepare fracked natural gas to be
8 exported down through the pipelines that are already
9 being proposed and sent out overseas to make a profit
10 for the Mitsubishi financial investment.

11 Now, I know that you say that you are
12 Bergen County, and, yes, you are, but we are all
13 people and we all need to make our decisions thinking
14 about each other.

15 We have to tell Gov. Murphy no thank
16 you, you said that we would be a state that would use
17 renewable resources. Let's ask him, when he draws
18 his plan for the future, that he keep those promises.

19 I want labor to have jobs. I want
20 labor to have long-term jobs, labor jobs, but this
21 particular plant will be 3 to 4 years to construct
22 it. How many jobs will remain at that plant that
23 will not be robotic, computerized, what will that
24 labor force be?

25 AUDIENCE VOICE: Aliens!

1 MS. LEPORE: This plant has a 40-year
2 life. 40 years later, what we will have is
3 pollution.

4 MR. MASLO: Time is up.

5 MS. LEPORE: It's pollution in
6 New Jersey and exported gas to fill the pockets and
7 line the benefit of the Mitsubishi financial
8 investment.

9 Thank you so much for listening to me.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

11 [APPLAUSE]

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Matt Smith.

13 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Freeholders.
14 My name is Matthew Smith, senior organizer with Food
15 & Water Watch.

16 I'm here on behalf of our 7,000 members
17 and supporters in Bergen County to urge the
18 Freeholders to oppose the Meadowlands power plant
19 proposal.

20 There's been a lot of claims made this
21 evening, and, you know, there's been some
22 inaccuracies on both sides, to be quite frank.

23 But just to clear the air and provide
24 some facts.

25 There are a few important reasons why

1 we are here this evening, Freeholder Sullivan. First
2 and foremost is that the prevailing winds that would
3 blow the pollution, the nitrogen oxide, the
4 particulate matter that's linked to all sorts of lung
5 and heart disease, which Bergen County, part of the
6 section, the eastern section, is already rated an F
7 by the American Lung Association. Those towns would
8 bear the brunt of the pollution. Hudson County would
9 get it too, but Bergen County would get the brunt of
10 the pollution and the public health costs.

11 Particularly vulnerable are outdoor
12 workers. So trips to the emergency room would
13 increase when you're putting another major power
14 plant, an emitter of these harmful pollutants less
15 than one mile away from another major source of these
16 same air pollutants.

17 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Where is that
18 major source?

19 MR. SMITH: PSE&G's Ridgelyfield
20 generating station.

21 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: All right. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. SMITH: You're welcome.

24 I think the other piece here is that
25 Bergen County gets no benefit from the project,

1 right?

2 AUDIENCE VOICE: What about jobs?

3 MR. SMITH: So there would be,
4 according to the company, and you can verify, this on
5 their website, there would be approximately 1,200
6 temporary one season construction jobs produced from
7 the plant and no more than two-dozen permanent jobs,
8 most of which would be low paying security jobs.

9 So, you're in a difficult position, but
10 I think if we look at the actual facts and the cost
11 benefit of this proposal, there's very little, if
12 any, benefit to the residents of Bergen County. I
13 mean, I understand that everyone needs a job, but as
14 Freeholders your job is to make the decisions that
15 are best for the majority of the residents of the
16 county, not for a special interest, but for the
17 majority of the nearly one million residents who live
18 in the county whose property values would be affected
19 who live near the plant, whose health would be
20 affected, whose water would be affected.

21 The gray water point is a good one,
22 however, you're not including for air deposition.
23 When you pump that gray water at the tower to
24 condensate that form is going to contain many of the
25 chemicals and heavy metals that are produced through

1 the burning of that gas and that would go right back
2 into Bergen County's water supply.

3 I'm going to use my full three minutes.

4 Furthermore, millions of gallons of
5 diesel oil are proposed to be stored on-site. This
6 power plant, though it's been said it's not in the
7 Meadowlands, will be directly on the banks of the
8 Bellman's Creek, which feeds directly into the
9 Hackensack River, which is surrounded by state
10 preserved wetlands. If there was a major release of
11 diesel fuel from the site or any construction fluid,
12 for that matter, this could irreparably harm a
13 natural resource that brings in millions of dollars
14 in tourist revenue to the county and it is a
15 treasured jewel for the county.

16 AUDIENCE VOICE: That's it.

17 MR. MASLO: The time is up.

18 MR. SMITH: We know that the county has
19 an important role, both using its voice to weigh in
20 on this fight, join the 48 towns in passing a
21 resolution opposing it, and also we don't think the
22 county should be investing taxpayer money into a
23 water pipeline through the Bergen County Utilities
24 Authority to feed a power plant that would hurt our
25 county's residents.

1 So thank you very much for your time.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Renee Allessio.

5 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Freeholder

6 Chairwoman?

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

8 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I don't know why
9 he singled me out out of everybody's that's in here,
10 I don't know why. I'm just another Freeholder like
11 everyone else, so I don't know why you singled me
12 out.

13 MR. SMITH: You were the only
14 Freeholder speaking out and in favor of it.

15 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I never said I
16 was in favor or against. This is the problem, when
17 you don't hear what you want to hear, you twist
18 words.

19 MR. SMITH: You didn't say you were in
20 favor but you questioned our people, you didn't
21 question any of the workers, so it's pretty clear
22 where you stand.

23 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: And I'm going to
24 take offense to what you say.

25 MR. SMITH: I'm taking offense to what

1 you say.

2 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm not here to
3 tell you whether it's good for Bergen County or bad
4 for Bergen County, but you just insulted a roomful of
5 people by calling them temporary jobs. These men and
6 women --

7 MR. SMITH: I quoted a fact. It's on
8 the power website.

9 AUDIENCE VOICE: Let him talk.

10 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: If you want to go
11 outside and talk after this, we can talk, but I have
12 the floor right now.

13 These men and women that are here,
14 these are not temporary jobs for them.

15 AUDIENCE VOICE: Careers.

16 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: It's a career,
17 exactly right. They go from job to job.

18 MR. SMITH: The power plant --

19 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: You are the
20 rudest individual I ever met in my life.

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm just here to
23 say we are here to listen to the facts, and that's
24 what I'm doing, I'm listening. I've heard very valid
25 points from both sides, and for you to come up here

1 and assume something and accuse people of something,
2 it's just wrong.

3 Thank you.

4 AUDIENCE VOICE: Yes!

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 MS. ALLESSIO: Good evening. Thank you
7 for allowing me to speak this evening.

8 I'm with the Franciscans Response to
9 Fossil Fuels. We're a faith-based group. I'm a
10 resident of Passaic County, but my three young
11 grandchildren do live in Bergen County. I was also
12 the Right to Know Coordinator for over 10 years for
13 the Passaic County --

14 AUDIENCE VOICE: Carpetbagger!

15 MS. ALLESSIO: -- for the Department of
16 Health.

17 AUDIENCE VOICE: Time's up.

18 MS. ALLESSIO: And was in a
19 professional healthcare union.

20 I understand the added health risk this
21 plant would pose and the increased methane, a
22 greenhouse gas, and other fossil fuel infrastructure
23 and methane, a greenhouse gas that this plant would
24 produce.

25 If I don't speak for my young

1 MS. FRIEDMAN: Hi. Thank you very much
2 this evening for your patience and listening to
3 everybody and everything that's being said.

4 First of all, I'd like everyone to know
5 that there is a website called
6 NoMeadowlandsPowerPlant.com.

7 Many of the topics that you've heard
8 today and the facts that have been said can be looked
9 up on that website, because there's a lot of
10 information that's been shared tonight and it can be
11 a little bit confusing. As Mr. Sullivan said, you've
12 heard pros and cons, and you guys are doing your best
13 to be objective on a very important topic.

14 I live in North Bergen. I live in
15 Hudson County. I've lived there for 10 years, and
16 prior to that, I lived in Bergen County. I lived in
17 two towns. My kids went to school in Bergen County.
18 It is an amazing educational system that we have
19 there and it's a beautiful county.

20 Hudson County is awesome as well.
21 You've heard all about the Meadowlands, you know
22 about it. But what I've learned is and what I've
23 shared with my friends and family from Bergen County
24 is that I'm really not that far away anymore. I live
25 in northern Bergen County -- I'm sorry, I can't hear

1 because of the people in the back. If there's
2 anything that you guys can do to help us up here, we
3 would really appreciate it.

4 [GAVEL BANGED]

5 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much.

6 North Bergen, where the plant is being
7 considered, is on the border of Ridgefield, as you
8 know. It's also off the highway, Tonnelles, Route 1
9 & 9. In the last 10 years that I've lived there, all
10 I've seen is construction on Route 1 & 9; when one
11 project is done, then another one comes in.

12 What I'm about to say are things that
13 have already been touched on.

14 With the infrastructure --

15 AUDIENCE VOICE: Oh, no.

16 MS. FRIEDMAN: People can leave, if
17 they think they've heard enough, but we all have a
18 right to speak.

19 There's always room for more
20 infrastructure. If this project doesn't happen,
21 they'll be jobs for people. Just like when the large
22 company, LG, came, they had hearings like this and
23 they came to a compromise, so there is a way.

24 AUDIENCE VOICE: Four years later.

25 MS. FRIEDMAN: In my opinion, this

1 project is rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul. You've all heard
2 that the project is speculative. There is nobody out
3 there who needs the gas who wants to pay for the gas.
4 So what happens if, God forbid, all of the potential
5 problems that people have already talked about,
6 whether it's the diesel fuel that leaks into the
7 groundwater, whether it's methane that catches on
8 fire, and we can't call in Rendadeer (phonetic) from
9 the Permian Basin to come put it out, as we did years
10 ago. What if all of these terrible things happened
11 and Mitsubishi had sold this project to someone else
12 and we have no say in the contract. What happens to
13 the liability? Who do you go after? What's going to
14 happen and who's going to be responsible for things
15 that you can't foresee because they have no vested
16 interest?

17 MR. MASLO: That's time, miss.

18 MS. FRIEDMAN: So with the health, the
19 reality that there is nobody out there, there is no
20 accountability, and also one last thing.

21 The education level in the towns where
22 I used to live, like I said, were amazing. I predict
23 75 percent of the people in North Bergen don't even
24 know what's going on, and that's why you don't have
25 the voices, and that's why we're coming to you. We

1 need your help. There's a political machine that
2 still exists in Hudson County that does not exist in
3 Bergen County, and we need your help to educate and
4 put power behind our words, and everyone will
5 benefit.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

7 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Ron Schwartz.
10 Sarah Newell.

11 MS. NEWELL: My name is Sarah Newell.
12 I I'm from Belfast, Northern Ireland, so I think I've
13 traveled the farthest. I'm living here in New
14 Jersey. I'm an organizer for GreenFaith, and we are
15 an interfaith environmental organization.

16 We work for --

17 [AUDIENCE HECKLING]

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Let her speak.

19 MS. NEWELL: We work with diverse
20 religions coming together for environmental action.

21 As an Irish person, I know what it
22 looks like for a country to move into renewable
23 county. I have the perspective and mindset that a
24 country can transition. It looks fair and it's
25 equitable, and it looks sustainable for our planet

1 and for our communities.

2 At GreenFaith, we are very supportive
3 of strong policies that would require funding to
4 retain workers' incomes and health benefits while
5 they make job transitions, when these are necessary.

6 It's why we support generous funding
7 for re-training that more and more people are going
8 to need around the country and around the world.

9 I'm a Christian and I care about
10 creation. I care for the abundance of gifts that it
11 provides everyday for everyone in the this room.

12 If you're a person of faith, of any
13 religion, of any spirituality, you know that this
14 power plant is morally wrong.

15 AUDIENCE VOICE: Oh, come on!

16 MS. NEWELL: I'm 25-years-old. I'm in
17 a different country. I'm dedicating my life to this
18 calling. The climate crisis is real, and I care for
19 my future.

20 People are adapting, countries are
21 adapting, the world is adapting, because we have to.

22 New Jersey needs to cast its vision to
23 a healthy, fair, and equitable future for all.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are we good?

3 I would like to first thank everyone
4 for coming this evening and --

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 AUDIENCE VOICE: God bless America.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
8 to close to the public?

9 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

12 (All present Freeholders respond in the
13 affirmative.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I would like to
17 thank everyone for coming this evening and expressing
18 your concerns. We've been in contact with the
19 Governor's Office and with the DEP on this matter.
20 They're well aware of all your concerns, and they are
21 currently going through and conducting a thorough
22 review.

23 Our jurisdiction is for matters
24 pertaining to county property in Bergen County, not
25 in other counties or on state controlled land. We're

1 not here to be governing our neighboring counties.

2 As residents of Bergen County
3 ourselves, the health and safety of our constituents
4 is our paramount concern, but if the plant endangers
5 the residents of Bergen County, there are enforceable
6 measures available that can be pursued beyond seeking
7 a ceremonial resolution.

8 We will continue to closely monitor the
9 situation and keep all options available to us at our
10 disposal, and, as always, continue to look out for
11 the best interests of the residents of Bergen County.

12 Thank you all for coming this evening.

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 RESOLUTIONS OF CONSENT

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
16 the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions of Consent
18 are: #161-19 through #229-19.

19 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
20 Agenda.

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, if I
22 may, I'd like to have #162-19 pulled from the
23 consent.

24 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

1 (All present Freeholders respond in the
2 affirmative.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
4 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda as
5 read by the Clerk?

6 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
7 Agenda.

8 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

10 (All present Freeholders respond in the
11 affirmative.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll
14 call is taken and the Consent Agenda is passed by a
15 unanimous vote.)

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, the
17 Consent Agenda has passed.

18 RESOLUTIONS OF NONCONSENT

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Are there any
20 Resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled or tabled?

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There is one Resolution
22 of Nonconsent, #162-19. It is: "Qualify and Award:
23 Confirming: Annual Maintenance Agreement/Scanning
24 Services for Various Locations - RFQ #18-022,"
25 submitted by Administration and Finance, Division of

1 Information Technology.

2 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, if I
3 may?

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: The reason for
6 pulling this off of the Consent is I wanted to have a
7 discussion.

8 I've spoken to the Administrator prior
9 to the meeting, and I would like to do an amendment
10 on the floor. I believe that the body of the
11 resolution is unclear, and, in my opinion, the
12 \$200,000 not to exceed that's in the title should be
13 included in the body of the resolution. So I'd ask
14 Freeholder Counsel and the Administrator to work on
15 that, and us approve the resolution under the guise
16 that that would be rectified.

17 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: That
18 is acceptable to the administration, and, if you'd
19 like, I can make that proposed amendment here on the
20 floor.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: That would be good.
22 Thank you.

23 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: In
24 the first "Now, therefore, be it resolved" paragraph,
25 I would propose adding to the end of that paragraph,

1 following, "for a total estimated value not to exceed
2 \$65,737.50 to be charged to the account identified,
3 with a total not to exceed amount of \$200,000 for
4 maintenance services," if we add that tag to the end
5 of that.

6 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Great.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

8 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: I'll make a
9 motion to adopt that language as part of the body of
10 the resolution.

11 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: And I'll second
12 that.

13 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

14 (All present Freeholders respond in the
15 affirmative.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Roll call on #162-19.

18 (At this point in the proceeding roll
19 call is taken and Resolution #162-19 as amended is
20 passed by a unanimous vote.)

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes,
22 #162-19 is adopted as amended.

23 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

25 ORDINANCES

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk read
2 our first ordinance, Ordinance 19-05, by title only.

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 19-05 is a:

4 "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE
5 ACQUISITION OF 101-103 HUDSON STREET IN THE CITY OF
6 HACKENSACK AND VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THERETO
7 BY COUNTY OF BERGEN, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE
8 AMOUNT OF \$2,200,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE
9 ISSUANCE OF \$2,095,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY
10 TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Move the
12 ordinance.

13 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

15 (All present Freeholders respond in the
16 affirmative.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

18 (At this point in the proceeding roll
19 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction
20 of Ordinance 19-05 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, 19-05
22 passes First Reading.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to
24 our ordinance for Second Reading and Adoption,
25 Ordinance 19-06.

1 Will the Clerk read Ordinance 19-06 by
2 title only.

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 19-06 is an:

4 "ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AN AMENDED TABLE OF
5 ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
6 SIGNED ON JANUARY 1ST, 2015, FOR THE BERGEN COUNTY
7 BUREAU OF POLICE SERVICES DURING THE POST-REALIGNMENT
8 PERIOD."

9 The Proof of Publication of the
10 Ordinance Notice of Public Hearing was published in
11 accordance with the law and is on file in my office.

12 A copy of the Notice of Hearing and
13 Ordinance No. 19-06 was duly posted, pursuant to
14 N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17 on Friday, February 15, 2019.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
16 to open the hearing on Ordinance 19-06 to the public?

17 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

18 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

20 (All present Freeholders respond in the
21 affirmative.)

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The public hearing
23 is open with a five minute time limit in effect to
24 speak about Ordinance 19-06 only at this time.

25 The Board Attorney will keep the time.

1 [SHORT PAUSE]

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion
3 to close the public hearing on Ordinance 19-06?

4 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

8 (All present Freeholders respond in the
9 affirmative.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Is there any board
11 discussion on Ordinance 19-06?

12 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, I
13 would just like to thank and commend the Sheriff for
14 being proactive in this matter and alerting the
15 Freeholder Board to the need to update the table of
16 organization.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you,
18 Freeholder.

19 May I have a motion to adopt Ordinance
20 19-06 as was read by the Clerk?

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

24 (All present Freeholders respond in the
25 affirmative.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

2 (At this point in the proceeding roll
3 call is taken and the Second Reading and Adoption of
4 Ordinance 19-05 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With all seven
6 Freeholders voting yes, 19-06 is adopted and passes
7 Second Reading.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have the
9 Freeholder Committee Reports.

10 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairwoman, in
11 light of the time and the length of tonight's
12 meeting, although we all attended numerous events and
13 community functions, I would make a motion to suspend
14 reports this evening.

15 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I will second
16 that.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

18 (All present Freeholders respond in the
19 affirmative.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: There being nothing
21 further to come before this meeting, may I have a
22 motion to adjourn?

23 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

25 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

2 (All present Freeholders respond in the
3 affirmative.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We're adjourned at
5 9:36 p.m.

6 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
7 adjourned at 9:36 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/19