



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER  
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**Resolution Urging the Passage of S2051 Establishing Fire  
Safety Standards for Multifamily Light Frame Residential Construction**

**WHEREAS**, Senators Loretta Weinberg and Brian Stack have introduced S2051 for new multiple dwellings and attached housing of light frame construction. This proposed legislation has important environmental implications, along with its fire safety goals;

**WHEREAS**, the first two requirements limit highly combustible multifamily to a 12,000 square foot footprint of a three-story light frame building---approximately 30 units per detached structure---and require 30 feet of open space between buildings. The bill encourages non-combustible construction for large-scale structures; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous massive fires have occurred in multiple unit residential structures of light frame wood construction, while occupied and under construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the extreme speed with which light frame wood construction can reach its failure point when exposed to fire has led to devastating results for residents and first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, this is not only a fire safety issue and an economic issue, but an environmental / sustainability issue. Fires cause the massive waste of a wide variety of resources from construction materials to the personal resources of the residents, as well causing the release of major toxic air pollution that adversely impacts the health of local residents, including children. This is especially debilitating for New Jersey, which is already a nonattainment area for Ozone, endangering people with pre-existing respiratory issues and first responders, and well as the health and longevity of all residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Sierra Club of New Jersey to urge for the swift passage of S2051 to provide municipalities with an additional tool to reduce the risk of massive fires, for the protection of residents, public safety personnel, and property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, to Senator Weinberg and Senator Stack, and members of the Senate Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

Signed,

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Richard Isaac, Chair  
Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter

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Date