



**Public Testimony**  
**October 8, 2020**  
**New Jersey State Assembly Hearing**  
**Environment and Solid Waste Committee**  
**Re: Assembly Bill 2785**

**Submitted on behalf of Cortney Worrall, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance**

Dear Chairwoman Pinkin and Members of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee,

The [Waterfront Alliance](#) and [Rise to Resilience](#) coalition urge you to vote yes on A.2785 and S.2607, bills which would require the land use plan element of municipal master plans assess, incorporate and develop responses to climate change-related risks. This type of forward-looking land use planning is critical to keeping New Jersey's residents, businesses, and environment safe and thriving in a world with a changing climate.

Municipal master planning is the primary tool at the local level to determine where to facilitate growth and infrastructure investments and a long-term strategy for balancing needs and impacts through the management of land use. Integrating resilience is critical to consideration of future conditions that may negatively affect infrastructure, property, and natural resources.

Such plans, rooted in a strong community process, can equip municipalities to avoid future losses, save taxpayer dollars and increase affordability, equity, infrastructure resilience and green infrastructure. The Together North Jersey Resilience Task Force developed a [Sustainability and Resiliency Toolkit to facilitate](#) this incorporation. All New Jerseyans should have a pathway to resilience and a voice in developing that path.

Thank you to the sponsors in both the Senate and the Assembly for their continued leadership on the pressing environmental issues facing our state, and we thank the Committee for their support.

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