

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS BURKE & GRANT**

**RE: Water Quality Concerns Following the Fire at the Former Bethlehem Steel Plant**

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, a fire broke out at the former Bethlehem Steel plant along Route 5 in Lackawanna, when an employee changing a lightbulb dropped a bulb onto cardboard, setting the cardboard ablaze and quickly burning out of control; and

WHEREAS, during the fire fight, hundreds of firefighters from across the region were dispatched to the site, and some two million gallons of water were used in just the first day of the multi-day fight; and

WHEREAS, the runoff water from the fire could be seen entering municipal sewer drains, and concerns arose over the water drifting into nearby Smoke Creek; a direct waterway to Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, currently operating as a storage facility for vehicles and boats, the chemicals that were certainly present during the firefight cannot be ignored, and their potential mixing with the water used to fight the blaze should concern all residents due to the terrible effect it may have on our water supply; and

WHEREAS, though Great Lakes Industrial Development, the owner of the building, is insured against the losses of a fire, the damages to more than just tangible property must be taken into account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature holds Great Lakes Industrial Development responsible for the water cleanup that may be required as a result of the fire at the former Bethlehem Steel plant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body calls on the Department of Health, Division of Sewerage Management, and the Department of Emergency services work in collaboration to determine what environmental effects have resulted from the battling of the fire at the former Bethlehem Steel plant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein, Division of Sewerage Management Deputy Commissioner Joseph Fiegl, Department of Emergency Services Commissioner Daniel Neaverth, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for the County