



THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
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**"FAIR SHARE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS AND REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS"**

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**WHEREAS**, several Units of the New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were involved in the original litigation that led to the recognition of the *Mount Laurel* doctrine, and joined with families who had been discriminated against by the wealthy township of Mount Laurel and together sued, claiming that all towns have the obligation to provide their fair share of the region's need for affordable housing; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Supreme Court in 1975 and 1983 decided in favor of the NAACP and required every town in New Jersey to provide for its fair share; and,

**WHEREAS**, the legislature passed the Fair Housing Act in 1985 to implement the *Mount Laurel* doctrine, which included the loophole of regional contribution agreements (RCA's) allowing wealthy towns to pay out of their obligation; and,

**WHEREAS**, since 1985, the legislature and state agencies have attempted to create more loopholes to the *Mount Laurel* doctrine, such as an "*occupancy preference*" that discriminated against people of color who wished to move into towns that have been historically exclusionary, and increase in the "*age-restricted housing*" requirement that discriminated against families with children, and unwarranted reductions in municipal *Mount Laurel* obligations that reduced the number of housing units to be provided; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP and its allies have continued to work to close those loopholes, through both legal and political means; and,

**WHEREAS**, this year the NAACP and its allies achieved two major landmarks in closing those loopholes, first through the passage of the **A-500** legislation abolishing RCA's and creating several other important changes such as increased funding for affordable housing and second through the implementation of new *Mount Laurel* "*Third Round*" rules in response to court invalidations; and,

**WHEREAS**, these landmark victories are now under attack by wealthy municipalities that seek to exclude the poor and people of color, in contrast to the NAACP's vision of a state in which people of all races live together in integrated communities and in which the rich and poor are not isolated from each other, but share schools, parks, and town halls; and,

**WHEREAS**, these municipalities seek to convince Governor Jon Corzine to extend the deadline for compliance with the new rules and in the meantime roll back many of the advances that have been made this year and in years past; and,

**WHEREAS**, the "*Third Round*" rules have already been delayed for ten years and many municipalities are finally preparing fair share plans, and further delay would delay construction of much-needed affordable housing;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strongly opposes the efforts of the municipalities for any delay of implementation of the new "*Third Round*" rules;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP opposes rolling back the ban on RCA's or any other component **A-500** or earlier *Mount Laurel* decisions and legislation; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) submit a copy of this resolution to Governor Jon Corzine, the state legislature, state officials and work actively in local NAACP Units to oppose efforts to delay or suspend implementation of *Mount Laurel* obligations.

James E. Harris, State President

Approved: December 6, 2008

Joyce Mollineaux, State Secretary