

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**HARRIET D. CORNELL**  
Legislator -- District 10  
Chair, Environmental Committee

**AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, May 14, 2014**  
**6:00 PM**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 3/26/14 MEETING**

1. REF. #8874      **URGING CONGRESS TO FUND MESOTHELIOMA RESEARCH AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE FY 2015 APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY INCLUDING \$5.26 BILLION FOR THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE AND \$25 MILLION FOR THE PEER REVIEWED CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM AS PART OF THE CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
**(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)**
  
2. REF. #1021      **DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEM- NEW CAPACITY ZONE (NCZ) DESIGNATION FOR THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY**  
**(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)**
  
3. REF. #9495      **DISCUSSION ITEM- OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS (YOUTH BUREAU)**  
**(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)**
  
4. REF. #9495      **DISCUSSION ITEM- OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS (HEALTH DEPARTMENT)**  
**(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)**

# DRAFT

Introduced by:  
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor

Referral No.  
, 2014

**RESOLUTION NO.        OF 2014**  
**URGING CONGRESS TO FUND MESOTHELIOMA RESEARCH AT THE**  
**HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE FY 2015 APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY INCLUDING**  
**\$5.26 BILLION FOR THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE AND \$25 MILLION**  
**FOR THE PEER REVIEWED CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM AS PART OF**  
**THE CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED RESEARCH PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Mesothelioma is an extremely painful, almost always fatal cancer in which membrane cells (mesothelium) lining the chest or abdomen become malignant and proliferate uncontrollably. The resulting tumor thickens and hardens, crushing the lungs and suffocating the patient, invading the chest wall so that even breathing is excruciating, or invading the heart, aorta or other vital organs and causing catastrophic failure; and

WHEREAS, Mesothelioma is the tragic legacy of the industrial and commercial use of asbestos. Advertised as "the miracle mineral" because of its excellent fireproofing, insulating, filling and bonding properties, asbestos was used virtually everywhere in industry, manufacturing and construction from the 1930s through the late 1970s, even as its carcinogenic and respiratory lethality was well known to medicine, industry and the government. At its peak usage, more than 3,000 industrial applications or products were listed as utilizing asbestos. As a result, over 20 million American workers suffered dangerous exposures. Family members of workers who brought the fibers home on their skin, hair and clothes were also exposed; and

WHEREAS, Asbestos was prevalent on Navy ships, and servicemen and shipyard workers were heavily exposed. A study at the Groton, Connecticut shipyard found that over one hundred thousand workers had been exposed to asbestos over the years at just this one shipyard. Approximately one third of mesothelioma cases have been shown to involve exposures to Navy personnel or civilian workers in our nation's shipyards ; and

WHEREAS, Mesothelioma has a long latency (ten to fifty years), and even low dose, incidental exposures to asbestos are sufficient to cause the cancer. Thus, the prolific exposures of the past are leading to an epidemic of disease today; and

WHEREAS, although mesothelioma was identified in medical literature by the late 1940's, for decades the need for research to develop effective treatments for mesothelioma patients was ignored, obscured by the legal, economic and political aspects of asbestos; and

WHEREAS, historically, there has been a great disparity in the amount of research funding that mesothelioma has received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). As recently as 2011, cervical cancer, which has a similar death rate to mesothelioma and now has a vaccine, was funded at \$81 million, while mesothelioma received less than \$10 million in funding. This is more than 8 times more than mesothelioma; and

WHEREAS, with only one FDA approved treatment for mesothelioma, it is vitally important that this funding is sustained and increased as the only option for many patients is to participate in clinical trials; and

WHEREAS, The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) fund the best scientific and medical research aimed at eradicating diseases, including mesothelioma. For four years, fiscal years (FY) 2008, 2009, and 2010 crucial mesothelioma research was funded by the CDMRP's Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). In 2011, 2012, and 2013 mesothelioma was moved to the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). Mesothelioma is included as a topic area in the Fiscal Year 2014 Omnibus in the PRCRP, funded at \$25 million; and

WHEREAS, The CDMRP is funded through the Department of Defense (DoD), via annual Congressional legislation known as the Defense Appropriations Act. For most programs, the DoD sends a multi-year budget request to Congress in the form of the President's Budget. However, dollars for the CDMRP are not considered part of the DoD's core mission, and are therefore not included in the DoD's requested budget. Rather, the dollars to fund CDMRP are added every year during the budget approval cycle by members of the House or Senate, in response to requests by advocates; and

WHEREAS, The Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation recommends that Congress appropriate significant sums to DOD for a dedicated Mesothelioma Research Program or as a specific restriction within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. This will boost the long-neglected field of mesothelioma research, enabling mesothelioma researchers to build a better understanding of the disease and develop effective treatments. This will translate directly to saving lives and reducing suffering of veterans and civilians battling mesothelioma

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee has met, considered and by a \_\_\_\_\_ vote, approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Rockland County Legislature hereby urges Congress to fund mesothelioma research at the highest levels in the FY 2015 appropriations bill by including \$5.26 billion for the National Cancer Institute and \$25 million for the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program as part of the Congressionally Mandated Research Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to Hon. Barack H. Obama, President of the United States; Hon. Charles Schumer and Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senators; Hon. Nita M. Lowey, Member of the United States Congress; the President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives; and to such other persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

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5/9/14

5/12/14