

## Save Long Beach Island, Inc, Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Late Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Guts the National Environmental Policy Act.

Ship Bottom, NJ – September 1, 2023– Save Long Beach Island, Inc. (Save LBI) seeks retraction of the proposed rule provision by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that would allow federal agencies to delay the preparation of environmental impact statements (EISs) until the very end of their decision-making process.

This would let agencies decide on programs, technologies, and geographic locations for projects without an EIS and critical public input. Such decisions often have more environmental impact than the end result project.

This provision excludes the public from early decisions when real alternatives are open and environmental problems can be avoided. Postponing those environmental issues to a late stage when only a restricted and often prejudiced go/no go decision on a specific project is the subject invites litigation, dissention and delay. This serves neither the interest of the public, the environment or the developer.

“NEPA is one of the most important environmental laws in the United States,” said Bob Stern, PhD, President of Save LBI. “It ensures that the public has a say in any federal decision that could significantly affect the environment, and it helps to protect our natural resources. The proposed rule would effectively gut the NEPA by allowing agencies to ignore the environmental impacts of their decisions until it is too late to do anything about them.”

The proposed rule is a clear attack on the NEPA and on the environment,” said Stern. “We urge the CEQ to withdraw this harmful rule provision and

uphold the intent of NEPA to protect our environment and give the public a meaningful voice in the decisions that affect them.”

Save LBI strongly recommends that a revised rule require an EIS to be prepared on any federal decision that forecloses options that significantly affect the environment, regardless of when they occur in the decision process.

Save LBI is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and quality of life on Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

Save Long Beach Island, Inc,  
[www.savelbi.org](http://www.savelbi.org)