

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS
AND INCREASED MUNICIPAL AID TO PROVIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, under various administrations through the years, the State budget has diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, while the State may need to have the right to override the statutory dedication of these revenues to local governments, in order to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur; current State policymakers should not exercise that right automatically; and

WHEREAS, while that right should be the exception, it has become the rule; and

WHEREAS, by keeping flat funding of the appropriation for CMPTRA year-over-year, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, in SFY 2023, the State did provide some much-needed relief in the allocation of \$75 million of new funds identified as the Municipal Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, in SFY 2024, the State allocated \$150 million in Municipal Relief Funds, however, in SFY 2025 and, as proposed in SFY2026, no allocation will exist; and

WHEREAS, in the proposed SFY budget is \$60.7 billion, but Energy Tax Receipt funding is remaining flat at \$1.45 billion, a level that has remained largely unchanged despite inflation and rising operational costs; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of flat funding and underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources that were always intended to fund local programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Wharton, in the county of Morris calls for the immediate restoration of funding of Energy Taxes consistent with the State's original commitments; increase formula based municipal aid to reflect inflation and rising service costs; and reestablish a fair and reliable fiscal partnership between the State and local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, Assemblywoman Marisa Sweeney, Senator Anthony Bucco, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs Jacquelyn Suárez, the State Treasurer Aaron Binder, the Lieutenant Governor Dale Caldwell, the Governor of the State of New Jersey Mikie Sherrill, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Adopted: May 11, 2026

BOROUGH OF WHARTON

ATTEST:

**VINCENT BINKOSKI,
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**Cheryl Muzzillo,
Borough Clerk**