

RESOLUTION 2021- 202

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING PUBLIC UTILITY RATE INCREASE

WHEREAS, New Jersey Natural Gas Company has petitioned the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for a 25 percent customer rate increase: and

WHEREAS, the increase will add more than \$28 per month to the average ratepayer's bill: and

WHEREAS, the utility states that it needs the increase to pay for infrastructure improvements, including the Southern Reliability Link transmission pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County residents are still suffering the economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County has one of the largest senior citizen populations in the state; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens received only a 1.3 percent increase in their Social Security checks in 2021 but are now expected to pay this 25 percent increase

WHEREAS, seniors and other vulnerable residents may be forced to choose between paying this preposterous increase or buying necessary food and medicine; and

WHEREAS, the BPU, which will decide on this enormous increase, has no representation from Ocean County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barnegat Township Committee, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, hereby requests that the state Board of Public Utilities reject this unnecessary rate increase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Jersey Natural Gas should pay for the pipeline and other improvements through its growing profits and not burden ratepayers with these costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Ocean County resident should be appointed to the state Board of Public Utilities to ensure that local concerns can be better addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to New Jersey Natural Gas; New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; Governor Phil Murphy; 9th, 10th, 12th and 30th Legislative District Offices; Mayors of all Ocean County Municipalities; and Stefanie A. Brand, Director for the Division of Rate Counsel.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna M. Manno Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat at their regular meeting held on the 1st day of June, 2021, in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey.

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk