

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 117

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUESTING THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REJECT NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY'S PETITION FOR A 25% CUSTOMER 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, Little Egg Harbor Township residents are still suffering the economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Little Egg Harbor Township has a large senior citizen population; 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; and

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 PBU, which will decide on this enormous increase, has no representation from Ocean County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, 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; and Stefanie A. Brand, Director for the Division of Rate Counsel.

CERTIFICATION

I, **SUSAN M. FARRELL, RMC**, Deputy Township Clerk of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township of Little Egg Harbor Township Committee at a meeting held on the **13th** day of **May, 2021**.



Susan M. Farrell, Deputy Township Clerk
Little Egg Harbor Township