

# Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2013 - 067 ~

## RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL A-2753 AND SENATE BILL S-1923 REQUIRING DIRECT PAYMENT OF ENERGY TAXES TO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

**WHEREAS**, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities, and when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; and

**WHEREAS**, 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**, for years, though, State officials have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to plug holes in the State budget and to fund State programs; and

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

**WHEREAS**, municipalities lost \$331 million in combined Energy Tax and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) funding in Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, and 2011, while also being denied scheduled incremental funding; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these cuts, in a number of municipalities property taxes are higher now, despite the fact that they are spending less, proving that the State's diversion of tax relief funding has contributed to higher municipal property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, A-2753 sponsored by Assemblymen Daniel Benson and Wayne DeAngelo, and S-1923 sponsored by Senator Linda Greenstein, would restore the \$331 million in municipal property tax relief funding, ensure that each municipality will be restored to the 2007 (SFY 2008) Energy Tax Receipts/CMPTRA level and adjust that amount to account for inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills would require certain energy tax receipts to be paid directly to municipalities and, thereby, would assure local property taxpayers compensation for hosting transmission facilities and lines that allow gas and electric energy corporations to serve customers and conduct business in our Garden State; and

**WHEREAS**, the time has come to restore to local budgets the millions in property tax relief that have been annually diverted to meet State needs.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of West Milford salutes the sponsors for listening to the Mayors in their districts and all around New Jersey and for advancing this legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we enthusiastically support and urge our State Legislators to pass A- 2753/S-1923; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, New

Jersey Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, our State Senator Joseph Pennachio, and our Assembly representatives Jay Webber and Betty Lou DeCroce.

Adopted: February 20, 2013

Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013  
and certified as a true copy of an original.

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Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk