

**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP
BURLINGTON COUNTY**

RESOLUTION 2018-10-9

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACR-176
REQUIRING FULL 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 underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, municipalities lost \$368 million in combined Energy Tax and Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) funding since Fiscal Years 2009, while also being denied scheduled interest rate increases; 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, ACR-176, sponsored by Assemblymen Ryan Peters and Joe Howarth, would restore municipal property tax relief aid to 2009 levels, plus inflation, for a total restoration of \$384 million; and

WHEREAS, the amendment would require the state to match the new municipal property tax relief aid total every year going forward, plus annual inflation, thereby assuring 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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Township Committee 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

BE IT RESOLVED, that we enthusiastically support and urge our State Legislators to pass ACR-176; and be it finally

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, our State Senator, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

MOTION: CAIN SECOND: MAGEE

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: CAIN, MAGEE, DIGIUSEPPE, HIGGINS

NAYS: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE ABSENT: GABLE

CERTIFICATION

I, **LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR**, Municipal Clerk of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, at their Reorganization Meeting held on October 17, 2018 at the Municipal Complex at 6:00PM.

LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk