



A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE JERSEY STRONG COASTAL COALITION OPPOSITION TO THE NEW JERSEY ENERGY MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury (the "Township") has long sought reasonable solutions to electricity cost and reliability issues facing Township residents; and

WHEREAS, the Jersey Strong Coastal Coalition (the "Coalition") is a growing coalition of more than 60 New Jersey counties, municipalities and citizen groups which are deeply concerned about the cost of electricity to our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, in his January 14 State of the State address, Governor Murphy doubled down on his support of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan (EMP) which calls for achieving 100% carbon free electricity in the state by 2035; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy has called on the New Jersey Legislature to codify the EMP executive policy into law; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition believes that such legislative action would be a mistake of epic proportions, dooming New Jersey ratepayers to pay enormous premiums for unreliable power while causing irreparable harm to the state's environment and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of Governor Murphy's EMP goal and his focus on offshore wind, over 2,500 MW (17%) of electricity generation has already been prematurely retired, including 650 MW at Oyster Creek, which had provided round the clock carbon free nuclear power since 1969; and

WHEREAS, as a result, New Jersey now relies on other states in the regional PJM grid to supply over 25% of our power in order to keep the lights on and air conditioning running when needed most and this dependence is expected to grow to 50% by 2035 to meet increased demand from electrification and new data centers; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy's EMP policy has had direct economic consequences, since ratepayers must pay PJM for the additional capacity to be available as needed and, because PJM itself is short on capacity, the capacity price paid has increased nine-fold from 2024 to 2025, which has resulted in a 20% rate increase to hit electric bills this year; and

WHEREAS, this situation is expected to result in continued further rate increases as our dependence on PJM grows and the price paid for capacity increases; and

WHEREAS, while the current EMP is neither technically nor economically feasible, there is a need for an energy plan that can ensure that the state's growing energy needs can be met with reliable, affordable resources that will minimize emissions; and

WHEREAS, natural gas is affordable and reliable and relatively clean with low carbon emissions, and dispatchable base load and peaking plants can be deployed quickly within the next few years at existing sites without significant transmission system upgrades which would reduce or eliminate reliance on PJM imports while providing construction jobs and permanent employment to thousands of NJ residents; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power offers the potential for reliable base load and carbon free power as the state currently gets 20% of its generation from instate units and more capacity could be added at existing sites so the cost of new nuclear capacity employing advanced small modular reactors has the potential to be affordable in the next decade but needs to be demonstrated; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition has presented a report by Edward P. O'Donnell of Whitestrand Consulting LLC which indicates that expansion of in-state natural gas and nuclear capacity, rather than intermittent renewables or reliance on PJM imports, would best serve the energy needs of NJ over the next ten years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds the O'Donnell report contains credible findings regarding the benefits of expanding natural gas and nuclear electric generation capacity within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further finds that supporting the Coalition's efforts is in the best interests of the Township and its residents.

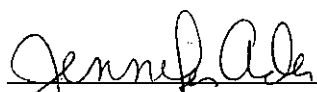
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey that it supports the Jersey Strong Coastal Coalition's efforts to support the expansion of natural gas and nuclear electric generation capacity within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized to execute any petition, letter or other communication by the Coalition for the purposes stated in this Resolution.

RECORD OF COMMITTEE VOTE

COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Melick			✓			
Desiderio						✓
Frankel						✓
Maranca		✓	✓			
Voyce	✓		✓			

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury at a meeting of said Township Committee on September 9, 2025.


Jennifer Ader, Municipal Clerk