

**THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING**

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**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEW JERSEY'S PARTICIPATION IN RGGI**

**Resolution #18R-81** WHEREAS, climate change is a dire threat to the citizens of New Jersey, including the residents of Ewing, posing grave current and future impacts: extreme weather like heat waves, downpours, hurricanes and flooding; and

WHEREAS, as highlighted by Superstorm Sandy, New Jersey is particularly susceptible to the risks of climate change due to its location on the Atlantic Coast and the destruction resulting from the confluence of coastal and inland flooding; and

WHEREAS, in spite of limited federal leadership on global climate issues, regional and global efforts to curb emissions of greenhouse gases are underway: the Paris Agreement with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); and

WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is an innovative and successful nine-state cap and trade program which has reduced climate-changing carbon pollution from East Coast power plants for a decade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey was an original member of RGGI at the time of its creation in 2005 and successfully participated in the budget trading program for several years; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Christie Administration unilaterally removed New Jersey from RGGI, was successfully challenged in Court in 2014 on procedural grounds, and then repealed the rules implementing participation in RGGI; and

WHEREAS, according to a report by Acadia Center, RGGI has helped participating states:

- cut electricity prices by 6.4%, while non-RGGI states are up 6.2%
- reduce emissions by 15% more than other states, but experience 4.3% more economic growth
- create \$2.76 billion in net economic gains and 28,500 job-years of employment.

WHEREAS, since withdrawing from RGGI, studies indicate that the State of New Jersey has lost access to an estimated \$279 million in funds that would have been realized from participation in the budget trading program, funds that could have been invested in the development of clean energy, alternative fuels, and the overall betterment of New Jersey communities; and

WHEREAS, On January 29, 2018 Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order 7 (EO7) directing the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to take all necessary regulatory and administrative measures to ensure New Jersey's timely return to full participation in RGGI; and

WHEREAS, participation in RGGI helps New Jersey comply with the national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants; and

**WHEREAS, a majority of New Jerseyans support limits on global warming pollution from power.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of Ewing do hereby encourage the State to take all necessary steps to rejoin RGGI in as expeditious a manner as possible.**

**IT IS SO RESOLVED.**

**Certification:**

**I, Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Ewing, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Township of Ewing at a Regular Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Ewing, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.**

**SEAL**

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**Kim J. Macellaro, RMC  
Municipal Clerk**