

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13-IC

RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL'S PROPOSAL TO BAN THE SALE OF NATURAL GAS STOVES, APPLIANCES, WATER HEATERS, AND OTHER NEW FOSSIL FUEL HEATING EQUIPMENT

Sponsored By: Allegany County
Moved By: Gary Barnes (Allegany)
Seconded By: Brooke Harris (Allegany)

WHEREAS, in her 2023 State-of-the-State address, Governor Kathy Hochul included a proposal to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel powered heating equipment by 2030, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul also included a proposal for all new construction to be zero-emission, with no on-site fossil fuel combustion by 2025 for smaller buildings, and by 2028 for larger buildings, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul believes that that these mandates will address climate change, will ease the burden on New York State residents struggling with high electric bills, and will help low-income families retrofit their homes by switching from fossil fuels to clean electric heating systems, and

WHEREAS, the mandate to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel heating equipment, which is a ban on the sale of natural gas stoves, appliances, water heaters, and other new fossil fuel heating equipment, will be excessively burdensome and onerous for the residents and businesses of New York State and the counties of Inter-County Association of Western New York and

WHEREAS, New York State has some of highest electricity rates in the country, and the cost to convert a house to solely electric will result in a cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per household, and it would not include any backup heating system in the event of a power outage due to the harsh winter weather and exposed electrical infrastructure for those individuals and businesses in Western New York, and

WHEREAS, a mandate to ban the sale of natural gas stoves, appliances, water heaters, and other new fossil fuel heating equipment will create an unnecessary financial burden and hardship on residents and businesses in Western New York, especially the poor, the elderly, and the veterans, thus pushing them to leave New York State and contributing to the State's accelerated population loss due to high taxes, the high cost of living, unreasonable and unrealistic government mandates not consistent with our geographic region, and reckless government spending, and

WHEREAS, in December 2022, a once-in-a-century blizzard hit the Buffalo, New York, metropolitan area, leaving tens of thousands of residents either stuck in their homes without power, or stranded in their motor vehicles, for several days. Natural gas appliances allowed individuals to heat their homes, boil water, and safely cook their food during days when emergency crews cleared the snow-covered roads and restored electricity. More than 40 people died during this storm, and many more individuals would have suffered the same outcome if they had to rely solely upon the electric power grid for their cooking and emergency heating needs, and

WHEREAS, mandating the purchase of electrical appliances is an unnecessary burden to place on individuals, families, and the poor, the elderly, and the veterans across New York State at a time when the cost of living has significantly outpaced wage growth, and

WHEREAS, the higher cost for energy bills will present a special burden for the elderly amongst the counties of Western New York, further exacerbating the recent increases in cost for food, transportation, and general merchandise, and

WHEREAS, individual homes, especially those in older communities and housing developments, will be forced to conduct costly "in-home" electrical panel upgrades to accommodate the increased demand from all of the electric-generated stoves, appliances, water heaters, and heating equipment, and

WHEREAS, this Board condemns Governor Hochul's mandate to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel heating equipment because it places further unnecessary mandated burdens on the working class, elderly, and retired residents of Western New York counties, while ignoring the resources already available that can effectively provide heat and energy at a fraction of the cost, and

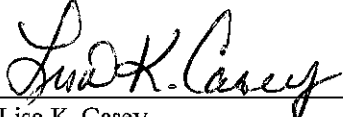
WHEREAS, Inter-County Association of Western New York adopted its own resolution expressing opposition to Governor Hochul's proposed plan to ban natural gas heating and other natural gas appliances, and urged Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to fully examine the real-life impact of their proposal, especially on the elderly and the poor. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Inter-County Association of Western New York strongly opposes Governor Kathy Hochul's proposal to ban the sale of natural gas stoves, appliances, water heaters, and other new fossil fuel heating equipment because this places an unnecessary, excessively burdensome, and onerous mandate on the residents, especially the poor, the elderly, the veterans, and the businesses of Western New York. Be it further

RESOLVED, that the Inter-County Association of Western New York strongly urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to fully examine the real-life impact this proposal will have on its residents, especially those who are poor, elderly, and veterans. Be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York shall forward an electronic copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Robert G. Ort, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay, Senator George M. Borrello, Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio, the New York State Association of Counties, and the Inter-County Association of Western New York.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 21st day of April 2023 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated April 21, 2023.



Lisa K. Casey
Inter-County Association of Western New York



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