

RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 80

RESOLUTION URGING THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF S-330
WHICH SHALL RESTORE THE ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS
TO MUNICIPALITIES .

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, 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 budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of dedicated energy tax receipts to the State's General Fund further jeopardizes this critical property tax relief funding in future years; and

WHEREAS, by reducing Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA), which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Senator Singleton and Senate President Scutari have introduced legislation (S-330) that will restore, over a five-year period, Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Vineland in the County of Cumberland urges the Legislature to swiftly pass this legislation and Governor Murphy sign the legislation prior to passage of the FY2023 State budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Assemblymen Antwan McClellan and Eric K. Simonsen and Senator Michael Testa, Esq., Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, and the League of Municipalities.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk