**TOWN OF HINSDALE RESOLUTION # 20-2023**

**OPPOSING GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S**

**BAN OF GAS STOVES AND OTHER NEW FOSSIL FUEL HEATING EQUIPMENT**

I. ***WHEREAS,*** Governor Hochul's State-of-the-State address contained a proposal to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel powered heating systems by 2030 for smaller buildings and by 2035 for larger buildings, and

II. ***WHEREAS,*** Governor Hochul is further calling for zero-emission new construction, with no on-site fossil fuel combustion by 2025 for smaller buildings and by 2028 for larger buildings, and

III. **WHEREAS,** President Biden and the White House have come out against any prohibition of gas stoves, and

IV. *WHEREAS,* the Governor's ban is intended to help address climate change, but this government mandate is more of a burden on our town’s and region's working-class residents and will have a devastating effect on restaurants, businesses and manufacturing facilities when they have to convert to all electric, and

V. ***WHEREAS,*** the cost to convert a house to electric will result in a cost between $20,000 - $50,000 per household and would not include any kind of backup system in the event of a power outage, and

VI. ***WHEREAS,*** the conversion to electric will create unnecessary financial burden and hardship for our residents and businesses, and

VII. **WHEREAS,** the ban will push a lot of businesses out of state and will contribute to accelerated population loss for those that are fed up with high taxes, the high cost of living, unreasonable government mandates, reckless spending by the government, and unrealistic environmental mandates not consistent with our geographic region, and

VIII. **WHEREAS,** a ban on natural gas appliances and water heaters is not feasible for the Town of Hinsdale with harsh winter weather and an exposed electrical infrastructure; appliances used to heat water and cook food need to work during power outages especially during times of inclement weather, and

IX. **WHEREAS,** many of the emergency backup generators for municipal and personal use rely on natural gas and other fossil fuels to provide the backup power during power outages would become obsolete, and

X. ***WHEREAS,*** in 2017 after years of attempting to have natural gas made available to the residents of the town, National Fuel made an investment in running a high pressure gas line from Hinsdale to the City of Olean, and

XI. ***WHEREAS,*** as a result of the new natural gas service hundreds of residents, businesses, the town water district, school district, fire department have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to install natural gas service in their homes and buildings. AND, additionally invested thousands more in new furnaces, emergency generators, hot water heaters and appliances replacing older inefficient appliances, and

XII. ***WHEREAS,*** in 2014 National Fuel Gas invested and built a new $54,000,000 compressor station in the Town of Hinsdale to provide the needed additional natural gas to a large portion of New York State and the northeast, and

XIII. ***WHEREAS,*** if this proposal were to come to fruition and the compressor station was decommissioned, the Town of Hinsdale would lose nearly 40% of its tax base resulting in a massive loss and/or shift of tax revenue increasing the burden to the other taxpayers for their town, school, fire district and county property taxes, and

I. ***RESOLVED,*** that the Hinsdale Town Board hereby vehemently opposes the Governor's plan to ban natural gas heating and appliances as not feasible or warranted for the Town of Hinsdale, Cattaraugus County and much of Western New York, and be it further

II. ***RESOLVED,*** that the Hinsdale Town Board hereby strongly urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to fully examine the real life impact their decisions will have for all New Yorkers, especially those least able to afford them, and be it further

III. ***RESOLVED,*** that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Hochul, Senator George Borrello, Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, Cattaraugus County Legislature, Hinsdale Central School District, Hinsdale Fire District, New York State Association of Towns, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Adopted this 13th day of February, 2023 by unanimous consent of the Hinsdale Town Board.

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Ann Carr, Hinsdale Town Clerk