

INTRO 14-4

FILED JUN 28 '11 AM 10:44

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS MILLER-WILLIAMS, WHYTE,
KOZUB, GRANT & MARINELLI**

Re: Requesting National Fuel Executives Continue to Meet with Members of People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) and Other Interested Community Based Organizations to Discuss Increasing the Number of Homes Eligible for Weatherization Funds Through their Conservation Incentive Program

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo has housing stock that averages 50+ years and that fact coupled with the cold winter climate leads to high costs for home heating for the residents of the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, many low income residents are assisted with their heating bills through the federal HEAP program; and

WHEREAS, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation is a primary source of home heating fuel for a majority of Erie County residents; and

WHEREAS, National Fuel collects a fee to fund the Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) from every customer on each bill. The subsidy collected for the CIP program totals over \$10 million annually and is "designed to benefit all customers by reducing natural gas consumption"; and

WHEREAS, it is the request of the non-profit organization, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH), to enter in to discussions with National Fuel to consider changes in their CIP program that would direct more dollars to the weatherization of low income homes; and

WHEREAS, PUSH believes that using CIP dollars to weatherize low income homes will not only serve to bring down the cost of heating those homes through energy efficiency upgrades, but will also provide jobs for local contractors hired to do the weatherization work on the homes while decreasing the need for HEAP subsidies for low income residents to pay their winter heating bills; and

WHEREAS, currently, according to National Fuel, a large portion of the CIP dollars are invested in appliance rebates for those households that purchase new energy efficient appliances. This appliance rebate does not have the same impact on the local economy that home weatherization has since the appliances are not manufactured locally. Additionally the appliance rebate program is only for customers that have the means to purchase new appliances before they become eligible for any rebates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature encourages National Fuel Gas Distribution Company to enter in to negotiations with People United for Sustainable Housing and other community based organizations in an effort to help increase funding

through their CIP funds for the weatherization of more low income households with the goal of increasing energy efficiency and providing local jobs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this certified resolution be sent to David E. Smith, Chairman and CEO of National Fuel Gas and Aaron Bartley, Executive Director of People United for Sustainable Housing as well as NYSERDA and the New York State Public Service Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for the resolution.