

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS GREENE, MILLS, TODARO, AND MALCZEWSKI**

Re: Opposition to the Proposed Ban on Natural Gas Heating and Appliances in New York State

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul's state-of-the-state address contained a proposal to "...end the sale of new fossil powered heating equipment by 2030 by calling for construction of – all new construction needs to be zero emission – starting in 2025 for small buildings and 2028 for large buildings,"; and

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

WHEREAS, the Governor's ban is intended to help address climate change, but this government mandate is more a burden on our region's working-class residents; and

WHEREAS, a ban on natural gas appliances and water heaters is not feasible for Western New York with harsh winter weather and exposed electrical infrastructure. Appliances used to heat water and cook food need to work during power outages especially during times of inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, this past December saw a blizzard rip through the Buffalo Metro Area leaving tens of thousands of residents stuck in their home without power, many for several days. Gas appliances, fed by more resilient infrastructure, allowed those residents to heat their homes, boil water, and safely cook their food for the days needed to clear the roads and restore electricity. Nearly four dozen people died during this storm, many more would have suffered if they had to rely on our power grid for cooking and emergency heating; and

WHEREAS, what is more, current technology that is expected to replace gas appliances, like space heating, does not work well in our climate. This fact was noted in the recent Climate Action Council's report, which proposed requiring two heating sources for New York Residents who live in areas that are frequently too cold; and

WHEREAS, electrical appliances have more moving parts and are expensive to maintain and repair, mandating their purchase is an unnecessary burden we are placing on families across New York State at a time when the cost of living has significantly outpaced wage growth; and

WHEREAS, further, all electric appliances have been shown to be less efficient and therefore cost more to generate the same amount of heat than natural gas fed appliances. With the higher costs, energy bills will go through the roof for residents further exacerbating the recent price spikes in food, transportation, and general merchandise; and

WHEREAS, as we have seen with California's recent push to make everything electric, this government mandate will likely lead to an increased strain on our state's electrical grid leading to black outs and rationing, which is especially dangerous with the winter weather we routinely experience; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure investment costs are not the sole responsibility of utility companies nor do they exist in a bubble. The investment costs to bury powerlines, increase renewable energy infrastructure, and increase the capacity of transformers will be passed on directly to consumers in the form of increased energy costs. Further, individual homes, especially those in older housing stock like Buffalo, will be forced to conduct costs in-home electrical panel upgrades to accommodate the increased demand from their appliances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby opposes the Governor's plan to ban natural gas heating and appliances as not feasible or warranted for Erie County and much of Western New York; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to pause in their rush and 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

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Hochul's Office, the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution