

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 89

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Resolution No. 89.

As reported, this resolution recognizes and honors the critical energy and utility infrastructure workforce in New Jersey for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent extreme weather events. According to data collected by the United States Energy Information Administration, residential energy consumption in New Jersey increased by 11.8 percent from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020. These shifts in demand placed an increased burden on the energy and utility companies that operate within the State and their employees. Despite the challenges posed by increasing residential utility demand during the global COVID-19 pandemic, the critical energy and utility infrastructure workforce rose to the challenge and was able to effectively stabilize residential energy and utility demand in the State.

Further compounding the novel challenges posed by providing energy and utilities during the COVID-19 pandemic were several extreme weather events that occurred in the State within the last two years. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey has experienced the hottest month on record, the second deadliest storm, and the largest power outage since Superstorm Sandy in 2012. In each case, energy and utility workers responded with dedication and courage to serve the emergent needs of the State.