**RESOLUTION**

Urging the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to Maintain

Strong Incentives for Solar Energy Projects in Schools

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is considering a proposal to restructure incentives and financial support for solar energy projects; and

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, New Jersey has promoted energy policies that have created a vibrant solar energy market; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s public schools have collectively invested more than $500 million to develop more than 600 solar energy projects, which reduce schools’ operating costs and help to manage and stabilize local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, these existing, or legacy, projects will provide low-cost energy for 15 years or more; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of the state’s financial commitments to these projects would harm school budgets, eliminate jobs, burden taxpayers and discourage future investment in solar energy; and

WHEREAS, solar energy has become part of the education program, with many schools incorporating data from their solar projects into the science, mathematics and technology curricula; and

WHEREAS, a reduction of solar energy incentives could adversely affect the financial health of school districts which have factored the incentives into their budgetary calculations; and

WHEREAS, while New Jersey law requires that renewable energy costs stay under annual caps, the payment of incentives to solar projects yields direct ratepayer benefits that should be included in any measurement of solar cost impacts; and

WHEREAS, an economic study commissioned by the New Jersey School Boards Association clearly shows that our state can accelerate solar and renewable energy while, at the same time, remain under the cost caps.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education calls upon the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and Governor to continue policies that make our state and its public schools national leaders in sustainability and solar energy by providing effective incentives to encourage new land, roof and canopy solar projects at schools and by supporting existing projects, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to members of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Governor Phil Murphy, State Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Assembly Members \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.