

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED CPV KEASBEY
POWER PLANT IN WOODBRIDGE NJ

WHEREAS, Competitive Power Ventures ("CPV") has proposed to build a gas-fired power plant ("CPV Keasbey") in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge, in Middlesex County New Jersey, in a densely populated region within the most densely populated state; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is already home to at numerous major fossil-fuel power plants, and

WHEREAS, Somerset County a part of Central New Jersey already suffers high levels of air pollution from fossil-fuel power plants, which are among the largest pollution sources in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Somerset County's largest community in Franklin Township is less than eight miles away from the proposed plant and would be negatively impacted by its operation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed CPV Keasbey plant would increase the concentration of ozone precursors (volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides) resulting in increased ground-level ozone, which studies have shown causes premature death; and

WHEREAS, Central New Jersey already has significant populations with pediatric and adult asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, nervous disorders, and mental disorders which will be exacerbated by additional volumes of air pollution; and

WHEREAS, conditions such as COPD can be exacerbated by even small increases in elevated ozone levels, with a corresponding effect on public health and healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, people most at risk from breathing ozone are those who live or work in close proximity to gas infrastructure facilities such as power plants and compressors particularly children, the elderly, and those with cardiovascular or respiratory problems; and

WHEREAS, the long-term negative impact of polluted air and the poor health conditions it creates or aggravates has contributed to New Jersey's high death toll from COVID-19, and will continue to put these populations at greater risk; and

WHEREAS, CPV Keasbey's air permit applications states that the proposed project will potentially emit an additional 2,374,633 tons of greenhouse gases (GHG's) annually which would be in direct opposition to the goals of the NJ Clean Energy Act, EO 28, EO 100, EO 274, the 2019 Energy Master Plan, the Global Warming Response Act, and New Jersey's environmental justice law; and

WHEREAS, if constructed CPV Keasbey combined with CPV's neighboring plant would form a massive facility that would be one of the state's worst climate polluters, with permission to emit a total of 4.6 million tons of GHG's every year (from both plants); and

WHEREAS, methane is the primary ingredient of "natural" gas and leaks at every system stage-extraction, processing, transmission, distribution, and end-use consumption-and is an extremely potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential that is 34 times that of carbon dioxide over a 100-year timeframe and 86 times that of carbon dioxide over a 20-year timeframe; and

WHEREAS, methane emissions from power plants like CPV Keasbey may be considerably higher than previously thought, according to a 2017 study that found gas-fired power plants released more than 20 times more methane than the facilities had estimated; and

WHEREAS, CPV Keasbey's application also shows the proposed facility's potential annual emissions of 25 tons of sulfuric acid, 50 tons of volatile organic compounds, 40 tons of sulfur dioxide, 149 tons of nitrogen oxides, 110 tons of carbon monoxide, 126 tons of ammonia, 78 tons of total suspended particles, and 123 tons of particulate matter, in addition to many other harmful pollutants including lead; and

WHEREAS, exposure to air pollutants emitted from gas infrastructure facilities have been linked with neurological, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, cancer, birth defects, and other adverse health impacts; and

WHEREAS, gas infrastructure facilities can annually emit hundreds of tons of pollutants including particulate matter and toxic chemicals such as mercury and criteria pollutants that can harm health and the environment some of which are known carcinogens such as benzene and formaldehyde, and can also be sources of radioactive contamination and are known to increase the severity of asthma and other respiratory diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard School of Public Health found that death rates for older Americans rise as air pollution increases-even when pollution levels meet current standards; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly declining cost of solar energy and storage have already caused the cancellation of projects using gas to generate electricity and is forecasted to become significantly cheaper than gas in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, all New Jersey municipalities will be forced to deal with the consequences of the climate crisis, especially our communities that are at increased risk of flooding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset has a principal responsibility to protect the health and safety of its residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Somerset County, in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses, opposes construction of this gas-burning power plant proposed by CPV; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on Governor Phil Murphy and the Department of Environmental Protection to oppose all fossil fuel projects in overburdened environmental justice communities, and impose a moratorium on same until rules are established pursuant to the state's environmental justice law; and

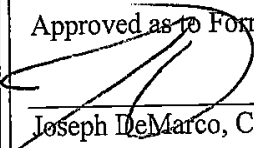
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners shall forward this Resolution to Governor Phil Murphy, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Senator Cory T. Booker, Senator Robert Menendez, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Shawn LaTourette, State Senator Robert Smith, Assemblyman Joseph Egan, and Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen,



I, Kelly L. Mager, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Somerset in the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by said Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of October 25, 2022.


Kelly L. Mager, Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form and Legality


Joseph DeMarco, County Counsel