



TOWN OF GRAFTON

Established in 1807

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RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW YORK STATE'S BAN OF GAS STOVES AND OTHER NEW FOSSIL FUEL HEATING EQUIPMENT

Resolution #41 of 2023

WHEREAS, the Grafton Town Board has endeavored to protect the health, safety and quality of life of those who live and work in the Town of Grafton and to further protect the environment and natural resources of the Town; and

WHEREAS, This Town Board also has a duty to promote reliable and affordable energy sources that Grafton residents can depend on to heat their homes and ensure access to essential services; and

WHEREAS, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul's State-of-the-State address contained a proposal to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel powered heating systems by 2030 for smaller buildings and by 2035 for larger buildings and zero-emission new construction, with no on-site fossil fuel combustion by 2025 for smaller buildings and by 2028 for larger buildings; and

WHEREAS, A bipartisan coalition including the White House, Consumer Product Safety Commission and lawmakers representing both sides of the political spectrum have come out against prohibition of gas stoves; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed ban is a part of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) intended to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Rensselaer County Legislative Body cautioned that the CLCPA (Resolution P/277/22) would put enormous financial burden on New York State taxpayers and quoted John Howard, a member of the NYS Public Service Commission, who stated that the true cost of the CLCPA has not been fully disclosed and would lead to hundreds of billions of dollars in higher utility bills; and

WHEREAS, New York State lawmakers continually tout subsidies that will bring down the overall cost of electrifying the grid, these subsidies are solely funded by utility ratepayers and taxpayers already overburdened by New York State's onerous cost of living expenses; and

WHEREAS, The demands for life saving and affordable energy sources in cold climate areas should be a priority for New York State leaders; and

WHEREAS, The generalized estimated cost to convert a house to electric in a cold climate area is between \$20,000-\$25,000 per household and would not include any kind of backup system in the event of a power outage coupled with certain rolling blackouts and energy rationing due to unreliability of electric grids causing dangerous and potentially deadly outcomes for residents; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2021 study commissioned by the National Association of Home Builders, electric homes in cold climates were also found to have higher ongoing utility costs compared to most cost-efficient gas homes; and

WHEREAS, A ban on natural gas appliances and water heaters is not feasible for Upstate New York with harsh winter weather and an 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, Current technology, that is expected to replace gas appliances, such as 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT, RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Town of Grafton is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Jake Ashby, Assemblyman Scott Bendett, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator for Region 2 Lisa Flavia Garcia.

Motion made by Frank Lewandusky, seconded by Steve Beaudry

Roll Call:

Councilman Beaudry - Yea
Councilwoman Deschaine - Yea
Councilman Lewandusky - Yea
Councilman Hoyt - Yea
Supervisor Gundrum - Yea

Motion Carried 5-0

Adopted March 13, 2023