

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 153**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 5, 2023

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably Assembly Resolution No. 153.

As reported, this resolution recognizes and honors the critical energy and utility infrastructure workforce in New Jersey for its 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 COVID-19 pandemic, the critical energy and utility infrastructure workforce rose to the challenge and effectively stabilized 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 during 2020 and 2021. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey has experienced its hottest month on record, second deadliest storm, and large-scale power outages. In each case, energy and utility workers responded with dedication and courage to serve the emergent needs of the State.