

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-68**

**OPPOSING THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS 24% RATE INCREASE**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Natural Gas is a public utility operating in the Township of Aberdeen, County of Monmouth providing natural gas energy to our residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Natural Gas has proposed raising gas rates by 24% on Aberdeen residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed 24% rate increase by new Jersey Natural Gas would increase an average Aberdeen homeowner's gas bill by \$260.00 a year; and

**WHEREAS**, while proposing such an increase, New Jersey Natural Gas paid their top executives \$13 Million in total compensation in 2015, a number 125% higher than 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Aberdeen Township Council have worked to keep municipal taxes flat for years to attempt to keep Aberdeen an affordable place for working class families and senior citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Aberdeen residents and business owners cannot afford to see their utility rates increase by 24%; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council have an obligation to advocate on behalf of their residents and business owners.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Aberdeen, County of Monmouth, that the 24% rate increase proposed by New Jersey Natural Gas is an excessive and unreasonable burden to Aberdeen's residents and business owners and must not be implemented.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Aberdeen call upon all elected officials and government agencies in a position to block this increase to do so in the best interests of Aberdeen citizens and businesses.