

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ**

RESOLUTION 2026-109

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE AND
GOVERNOR TO REPEAL THE GAS TAX ESCALATOR AND RESTORE
ACCOUNTABILITY TO FUEL TAX INCREASES**

WHEREAS, the residents of the State of New Jersey and the Township of Stillwater are burdened by one of the highest overall tax structures in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the State of New Jersey enacted legislation restructuring the Transportation Trust Fund and implementing an automatic adjustment mechanism commonly referred to as the “gas tax escalator”; and

WHEREAS, the gas tax escalator permits periodic increases in the motor fuels tax without a direct vote of the New Jersey State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, such automatic increases lack transparency and reduce accountability to taxpayers, who bear the financial burden without corresponding legislative oversight; and

WHEREAS, increases in the motor fuels tax raise the cost of commuting, goods, and services, and place additional financial strain on working families, seniors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, these increased costs also impact municipal operations, including transportation, public works, and service delivery, thereby placing further pressure on local budgets and, ultimately, property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Property Taxpayers Coalition has called for the repeal of the gas tax escalator as part of a broader effort to restore fiscal responsibility and taxpayer protections; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to advocate for policies that protect their residents from unnecessary and unaccountable tax increases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Stillwater, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that it hereby urges the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to:

1. Repeal the gas tax escalator; and
2. Require that any future increases in the motor fuels tax be subject to a direct vote of the Legislature; and
3. Restore transparency and accountability in the taxation process affecting New Jersey residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the members

of the New Jersey Legislature representing this district, and all municipalities within Sussex County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be made available to the public and shared with other municipalities as part of a coordinated effort to advocate for meaningful tax reform.

CERTIFICATION

I, Valerie Ingles, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Stillwater, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body at a meeting held on June 16, 2026.

Valerie Ingles, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk