

Resolution Opposing S-1914

WHEREAS, S-1914, would subject certain “user fees for traditional municipal services” to be included within the 2% cap; and

WHEREAS, the definition of “traditional municipal services” in S-1914 is open-ended, leaving municipalities and State regulators unsure on its application and, therefore, unable to properly plan for future years; and

WHEREAS, user fees for traditional county and school services would not be subject to any of the provisions of S-1914, although they have a greater impact on the local property tax bill; and

WHEREAS, it is at times more appropriate to fund some services by user fees, especially those services for which a recipient and a cost can be clearly and accurately calculated; and

WHEREAS, if municipalities are prohibited from charging user fees, they may be forced to discontinue the service, forcing residents to obtain the service from a private provider, often times at a higher cost than the user fee; and

WHEREAS, as municipalities struggle to meet the 2% levy cap, without the full effects of the management reforms and the continued diversion of energy receipt taxes, officials are forced to re-examine their budget and priorities; and

WHEREAS, in order to deliver the services that their residents expect and want local officials have been making structural changes to their budget, including how programs are funded; and

WHEREAS, municipalities must retain the financial flexibility to address their own unique fiscal issues and meet the demands and expectation of their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of (*insert name of municipality*) strongly urges the legislature to oppose S-1914; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the sponsor of S-1914, Senator Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Oliver, (*fill in State Senator and Assembly representatives*), the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Office of the Governor.