

R-10-1341

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT CLEARLY GUARANTEES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THE RIGHT TO ASSESS SPECIAL TAXES FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMS AND RESTORE THE PROMISE OF PACE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major portion of operating costs for home and business owners, and persistent unemployment, particularly in the construction industry, continues to burden our families and community; and

WHEREAS, energy security and reliance on fossil fuels continue to threaten public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, residential and commercial buildings consume nearly 40% of all electricity and are responsible for 40% of U.S. annual carbon dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills, create thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions; however, the upfront cost and potentially long payback periods prevent property owners from making otherwise cost-effective clean energy improvements; and

WHEREAS, Property Assessed Clean Energy ("PACE") financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their homes and businesses, such as energy efficient heating units, upgraded insulation, new windows, and solar installations; and

WHEREAS, the White House and the U.S. Department of Energy strongly support PACE, have dedicated \$150 million to develop local PACE programs, issued guidelines to ensure that PACE programs meet safety and soundness requirements and adequately protect both bond buyers and property owners; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two states have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, despite PACE's great potential, on July 6, 2010, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) issued statements that immediately forced existing PACE programs to halt operations and froze the development of dozens of PACE programs nationwide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That the City of North Little Rock hereby urges our Arkansas Congressional Delegation to support legislation that clearly guarantees local governments the right to assess special taxes for clean energy programs and restore the promise of PACE.

SECTION 2: That the City Clerk is hereby requested and directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation on behalf of this City Council.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

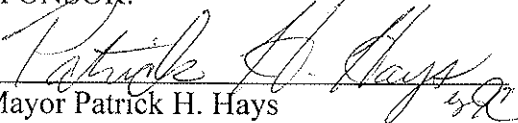
APPROVED:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Patrick H. Hays

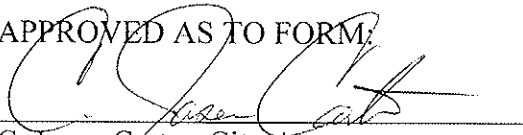
SPONSOR:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Patrick H. Hays

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Jason Carter, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/b

FILED 11:59 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

BY City Atty - Carter

DATE 8-17-10  
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

RECEIVED by Bonnie Dudley