



**TOWN OF WEST SPRINGFIELD
JOINT RESOLUTION**

REGARDING INCREASED COSTS OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY IMPACTING WEST SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, West Springfield residents have recently experienced significant increases in the cost of gas and electricity delivered by Eversource, which have placed a financial strain on individuals and families in our community; and

WHEREAS, these rising utility costs have become a pressing concern for the well-being and economic stability of residents, many of whom already face financial challenges due to inflation and the ongoing economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Springfield is committed to ensuring the financial health and quality of life for all its residents, and it is essential that action be taken to address these rising costs, which are placing undue burden on households; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) holds oversight and regulatory authority over Eversource, the utility provider that supplies gas and electricity to residents in West Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Legislature is empowered to enact laws and policies that can help protect consumers from excessive and unjustified utility rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Springfield respectfully requests an investigation into the factors contributing to the recent surge in gas and electricity costs and whether these increases are justified or represent potential issues with utility practices or market inefficiencies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Council of West Springfield, call upon the Massachusetts State Legislature and the Department of Public Utilities to initiate a comprehensive investigation into the recent increases in gas and electricity rates that are significantly impacting the residents of West Springfield; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the investigation should assess the fairness of these increases, the causes of the escalation, and the potential for legislative or regulatory actions to mitigate the financial impact on residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Council urges the legislature and the Department of Public Utilities to consider the possibility of providing direct relief or rate adjustments for West Springfield residents facing financial hardship due to these increased utility costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts State Legislature, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities for their immediate review and consideration.