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May 1, 2024

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MAY 06 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

Sherri Golden
Board of Public Utilities
44 S. Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

**Re: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN
GAS COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT AN INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT PROGRAM ("IIP") AND ASSOCIATED
RECOVERY MECHANISM PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:2-21
AND N.J.A.C. 14:3-2A**

BPU Docket No. GR23120882

Dear Secretary Golden:

The New Jersey Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ("NJLECET") writes you to express its support for Elizabethtown Gas Company's Infrastructure Investment Program ("IIP") filing presently pending before the Board of Public Utilities ("BPU"). NJLECET has been granted participant status in the above-referenced docket and provides these written comments in lieu of verbal statements at the public hearing held on May 2, 2024 in this matter.

NJ LECET is a labor management fund representing over 25,000 laborers in NJ and their signatory contractors. We work statewide with numerous stakeholders to promote investment in economic development, transportation and utility infrastructure.

If approved, Elizabethtown Gas Company's IIP will provide a number of community benefits to our members and the communities where they live and work, while also creating many jobs that will contribute to the State's economic benefit as a whole. Through investment in their infrastructure, Elizabethtown Gas will be able to improve service and reliability by minimizing service disruptions and reducing the level of unplanned repair and maintenance needed for dated infrastructure. Replacing these gas facilities in a systematic way will also lead to a more efficient rate process, benefiting ratepayers. Elizabethtown's IIP will also

lead to safer communities through the installation of more above ground shut-off valves that could be used by first responders in case of emergency. Finally, replacing outdated infrastructure will contribute to the State's climate change and emissions reduction efforts while also improving air quality by reducing the number of emissions that come from older pipes.

We respectfully encourage the Board to approve Elizabethtown Gas Co.'s IIP petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Gardner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Gardner
Director

SG/cs