

BY: M. of A. Beephan

RECOGNIZING February 2, 2026, as Energy Assistance Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York is committed to ensuring that all residents are able to maintain safe, healthy, and affordable home energy access, particularly during periods of extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize Monday, February 2, 2026, as Energy Assistance Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Energy Assistance Day; and

WHEREAS, National Energy Assistance Day (NEAD) is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of energy assistance programs and to encourage collaboration among federal, state, local, and community partners working to address energy affordability; and

WHEREAS, National Energy Assistance Day serves to highlight the critical role of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and New York's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) in helping vulnerable households maintain safe indoor temperatures during the winter heating season; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1.8 million households across New York State relied on the Home Energy Assistance Program to meet their home energy needs, including more than 1 million families in New York City alone; and

WHEREAS, In total, New Yorkers received more than \$400 million in HEAP benefits, providing essential support to seniors, families with children, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, While more than 1 million households currently utilize the State's Energy Affordability Program, State officials estimate that an additional 1.5 million households are eligible for assistance but are not yet enrolled, underscoring the need for continued outreach and education efforts through local utility providers and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Rising energy costs continue to strain household budgets, as the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association projects that families who heat their homes with electricity will experience a 10.2 percent increase in heating costs during the 2025-2026 winter season, bringing the average seasonal cost to more than \$1,200; and

WHEREAS, These rising costs make energy assistance programs more critical than ever to protect public health, prevent utility shutoffs, and ensure that New Yorkers are not forced to choose between heating

their homes and meeting other basic needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize February 2, 2026, as National Energy Assistance Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body commend the federal, state, and local agencies, utilities, nonprofit organizations, and community partners that work year-round to administer and promote energy assistance programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body reaffirms its commitment to protecting energy affordability, expanding awareness of available assistance programs, and ensuring that all New Yorkers can maintain safe and reliable access to home energy.