



UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

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RESOLUTION NO.: 18-2023

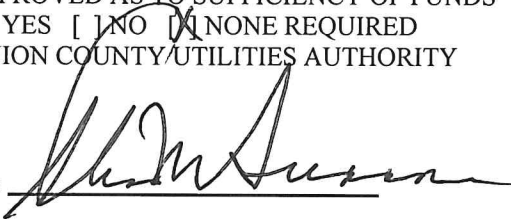
DATE: February 15, 2023

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY SUPPORTING A PATHWAY FOR WASTE-TO-ENERGY IN THE EPA'S ELECTRIC RENEWABLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER PROGRAM

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Bianka Vargas
Clerk of the Authority

By: 

APPROVED AS TO SUFFICIENCY OF FUNDS
 YES NO NONE REQUIRED
UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

By: 

| | PRESENT | ABSENT | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | MOTION | SECOND |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|-----|-----|---------|--------|--------|
| <i>Eastman</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Jackus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Holder</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Kahn</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>McManus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>People</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| <i>Rachlin</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Scutari</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Szpond</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Alma, Alternate No. 1</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| <i>Scott-Bey, Alternate No. 2</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |

**RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
SUPPORTING A PATHWAY FOR WASTE-TO-ENERGY IN THE EPA'S
ELECTRIC RENEWABLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County of Union, New Jersey developed the Union County District Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with the New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act for the purpose of managing the disposal and/or recycling of solid waste generated in Union County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (formerly Board of Chosen Freeholders) has designated the Union County Utilities Authority (the "Authority"), in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, as the implementing agency for its Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has utilized its Waste-To-Energy facility, the Union County Resource Recovery Facility, along with its contract partner Covanta Union, LLC, for several decades which not only provides renewable power to the grid, but manages the waste remaining after aggressive recycling efforts, preventing one ton of greenhouse gas emissions for every ton of that waste we prevent from being landfilled; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a draft regulation to create a Electric Renewable Identification Number (eRIN) on December 1, 2022 which will incentivize the speedy transition to electric vehicles. However, the current draft only includes biogas as an eligible fuel which will heavily reward the landfilling of waste, despite its climate impacts and its low standing in the waste disposal and recycling hierarchy, and contrary to Congressional intent to include solid renewable biomass like Union County's waste-to-energy facility as an eligible fuel; and

WHEREAS, municipal solid waste sent to landfills will qualify as an eRIN generator while that same municipal solid waste managed at UCUA's Waste-To-Energy facility will not, despite being the preferred technology by the EPA; and

WHEREAS, we believe the significant investments we have already made in our recycling and Waste-To-Energy infrastructure are important, and that swift and equitable inclusion of Waste-to-Energy in the eRIN program will provide additional financial resources we need to continue to invest in a sustainable New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Union County Utilities Authority as follows:

1) the Union County Utilities Authority supports Waste-To-Energy being included in EPA's eRIN program and requests that our local, county, state and federal elected representatives to contact the EPA to ensure its inclusion in the eRIN program.

2) Authority staff are authorized under the direction of the Acting Executive Director to forward a copy of this Resolution to local, county, state and federal elected representatives.

3) This Resolution shall take effect immediately.