

1 **NYSAC 2021 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Energy**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution in Support of the Inclusion of Waste-to-Energy in the Federal**
5 **Production Tax Credit, Clean Energy Standard, and Climate Programs**

6 **WHEREAS**, local governments have invested billions of dollars in waste-to-energy
7 (WTE) as an environmentally conscientious alternative to landfilling; and

8 **WHEREAS**, there are 76 WTE facilities in the United States, processing nearly 94,000
9 tons of municipal solid waste per day; and

10 **WHEREAS**, these facilities produce enough energy from waste to power 2.3 million
11 homes and recover more than 700,000 tons of metals annually; and

12 **WHEREAS**, these facilities accomplish this while reducing the volume of waste
13 landfilled by up to 70-90 percent, preserving valuable land and eliminating the
14 environmental and traffic impacts associated with the long-distance transportation of
15 waste; and

16 **WHEREAS**, WTE also has significant greenhouse gas reduction benefits, as WTE
17 facilities avoid one ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions for every ton of waste processed by
18 avoiding landfill methane generation and recycling recovered metals, among other
19 offsets; and

20 **WHEREAS**, WTE is recognized by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
21 (EPA) and the European Union (E.U.) as superior to landfilling for managing post-
22 recycled municipal solid waste, and WTE's use should be encouraged, not discouraged;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, with a population comparable to the U.S., the E.U. has 410 WTE plants
25 compared to only 76 in the U.S.; and

26 **WHEREAS**, there are more than 300 WTE facilities operating in China, and the
27 capacity grew at more than 26 percent annually between 2014 and 2018; and

28 **WHEREAS**, following the EPA's solid waste management hierarchy and investing local
29 taxpayer dollars in infrastructure that allows us to sustainably manage solid waste
30 locally by using every tool to avoid landfilling is the most responsible option and the
31 best for the environment; and

32 **WHEREAS**, favorable treatment of WTE in federal legislation has the potential to
33 provide an additional revenue stream through the sale of green attributes that will lower

1 the cost of solid waste management services provided by local governments that have
2 invested in WTE.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
4 Counties (NYSAC) supports the inclusion of WTE in the Production Tax Credit, the
5 Clean Energy Standard, federal and state climate programs, and other related policies
6 without any unnecessary restrictions or hurdles; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
8 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

9
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
11 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed
12 necessary and proper.