

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLARIFYING TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY
CORPORATE TAX RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SHIELD LOCAL TAXPAYERS FROM THE
COSTS OF ENDLESS TAX COURT LITIGATION.**

WHEREAS, based on a misinterpretation of a 1997 law, one telecommunications service provider determined it could exempt itself from the payment of Business Personal Property Taxes (BPPT) in any year and in any municipality where it unilaterally decided it provided less than 51% of dial tone service; and

WHEREAS, the dispute began in 2008 when Verizon informed several municipalities that it had decided to exempt itself from paying taxes on all the cables and electronic equipment it houses in local switching stations; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent years, similar actions by Verizon have led to cases affecting taxpayers in hundreds of other New Jersey municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Hopewell Borough in Mercer County prevailed over Verizon in a Tax Court case involving the corporation's claimed exemption for 2008, demonstrating that it took one municipality ten years to ensure Verizon paid its 2008 taxes; and

WHEREAS, further litigation will be necessary for Hopewell to secure BPPT payments for each subsequent year in which the exemption was claimed, creating the prospect of costly annual tax court filings for every other municipality, which, as demonstrated, can drag on for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Verizon has appealed the final Tax Court decision, forcing Hopewell Borough to invest even more time and resources into the fight; and

WHEREAS, S-1535 will put an end to this issue by clarifying the Legislature's intent to permanently apply the business personal property tax on local exchange telephone companies that were subject to the tax as of April 1, 1997;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the (insert name of municipality) supports the bill being proposed to ensure that all municipalities in the state, are permitted to hold an annual holiday bonfire fueled by discarded Christmas trees in a safe and enjoyable manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to (insert name of State Senator), (insert name of Assembly representatives), Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senate President Nick Scutari, Governor Phil Murphy, and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

(Name of Mayor)

Adopted:

(Date Adopted)