

Draft Resolution in Favor of Green Jobs/Green Homes NY

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs/Green Homes NY campaign is a partnership between leading environmental, labor, workforce development, affordable housing and community development stakeholders led by the Center for Working Families to support the creation of a state program to perform one million green residential retrofits (that both increase energy efficiency and lower environmental impact) in five years; based on rough estimates, reaching this goal will result in energy savings of 30% per home, or \$1.1 billion per year across the state, and

WHEREAS, the cheapest, greenest power is the power never generated, the power we don't have to make, transmit or buy because we no longer need it; buildings are major users of energy in New York State; they consume nearly as much as business and industry combined; this is not just because we don't turn off lights; it's because our homes are not energy-efficient, and

WHEREAS, basic retrofitting can save more than 30% a year on energy costs; small-scale state programs, through NYSERDA, achieve these levels of success; private companies are increasingly financing retrofits, too, since energy savings provide reliable high returns; retrofits like air-sealing, installing boiler controls, and replacing oversized water heaters have been proven to save around 30% a year, between \$1100-\$1500 on a household's energy costs, and

WHEREAS, New York ranks fourth in the US for residential energy consumption; forty percent of our fossil fuel CO2 emissions are produced by New York's home energy use, including 19% from using energy in our homes and another 21% from generating just the portion of electricity that powers our homes, and

WHEREAS, a 2006 report from the US Energy Administration showed that buildings account for 38% of the state's carbon dioxide emissions; they contribute directly to warming through the "heat island effect", the increase in local temperatures created by buildings and other objects that hold the sun's heat; in New York City, for example, buildings and pavement can raise temperatures by seven degrees or more, and

WHEREAS, residential structures alone in New York account for 16% of our total energy use; New York already pays more for energy than any state but Hawaii and Connecticut.; this year, as costs hover at historic levels, the average New Yorker's household energy bill will top \$3,700, or about 7% of median household income, and

WHEREAS, we have not invested in green retrofits on a mass scale; residential units and larger facilities can be upgraded to reduce heating and cooling needs, electric consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, "heat island effect" and stormwater run-off; a large scale retrofit program would provide home energy audits to everyone who wanted them and subsidize a range of site-appropriate upgrades: insulating walls, switching energy-guzzling appliances and light bulbs to Energy Star models, incorporating green building materials, installing a live green roof, or looking at alternative power sources where feasible; costs would be recaptured over time, as consumers saved on energy bills, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the (governing body) of the (jurisdiction) requests that our state legislature pass and our Governor sign into law Green Jobs/Green Homes legislation as described above