

RESOLUTION 2019-67

**RESOLUTION OF THE BORDENTOWN SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, IN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO
CALL UPON THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TO REJECT
SENATE BILL 3870 AND ASSEMBLY BILL 5391**

WHEREAS, the mission of Bordentown Sewerage Authority is to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective sewer service to our community; and

WHEREAS, Bordentown Sewerage Authority believes that the public has a right to vote on important community concerns such as the ownership of its sanitary sewer system; and

WHEREAS, Bordentown Sewerage Authority believes that ratepayers of a sewer system should not be burdened with costs unrelated to the operation and maintenance of that system; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 and Assembly Bill 5391 eliminate the public referendum currently required for the sale of a sewer system and so deprive the public of the opportunity to decide about the ownership and operation of one the most basic and important of local services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 AND Assembly Bill 5391 permit approaches to valuation of a sewer system that will unfairly inflate the sales price and burden ratepayers in the selling community and elsewhere in the State with paying for inflated cost; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 AND Assembly Bill 5391 tilt the playing field in favor of an investor-owned utility purchaser; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 AND Assembly Bill 5391 discourage municipalities from fully exploring the viability of other approaches to owning and maintaining a sewer system which may be less burdensome to ratepayers, such as continuing to own and operate the sewer system, regionalizing with other public units, entering into shared services agreements, or entering into a sales agreement with other public agencies such as authorities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 19th day of August, 2019, that Bordentown Sewerage Authority calls upon all Members of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly to protect the best interests of ratepayers and preserve, for the public good, public ownership and operation of sewer systems to vote "no" on S3870/A5391.

THE BORDENTOWN SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

By: M. Ellen Gulbinsky
M. Ellen Gulbinsky, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

Joseph R. Malone, III
Joseph R. Malone, III, Secretary