



## NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

116 West State Street, 1st Floor, Trenton, NJ 08608 | Phone (609) 989-9216 | Fax (609) 989-9595 [www.njcm.org](http://www.njcm.org) | [njcm@njcm.org](mailto:njcm@njcm.org)

### MAYOR'S PLEDGE

As a mayor in your district, I join the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in calling for immediate legislative action on two critical issues that directly impact the future of our municipalities.

#### RESTORE ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

We recognize the budget the State of New Jersey is currently facing. Mayors across the State are having the same discussions that you are to set funding priorities while establishing a fair tax rate. The underfunding of the ETR was decades in the making and it will likewise take years to restore it.

This is why the Conference is looking to take a more thoughtful approach to the ongoing issue of Energy Tax Receipts (ETR) and strongly desires to work with you to find a long-term solution to get these monies to the municipalities.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to provide \$150 million in additional funding to make up for the shortage in the ETR fund for FY 2026, similar to what was done in FY 2024. This will provide municipalities with breathing room so we can work with the Legislature to develop a long-range plan to bring the ETR payments back where they should be.

#### RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED REAL RULES

The proposed NJDEP REAL (Resilient Environments and Landscapes) rules present significant and immediate challenges for municipalities across the state. If implemented as drafted, these rules will:

- Remove vast areas of previously developable land, diminishing future growth and local tax revenue
- Undermine the ability of towns to meet affordable housing obligations by shrinking available land and increasing costs
- Stall redevelopment efforts by applying inflexible "greenfield" stormwater standards to existing properties
- Increase the cost of infrastructure projects and even modest home improvements, placing a financial burden on taxpayers
- Erode the local tax base through reduced property values and increased tax appeals, especially due to mandatory deed notices.
- Force residents outside federal flood zones to purchase flood insurance based on new state definitions, creating a hidden and costly mandate.

We urge the Legislature to delay the implementation of the REAL rules and to engage directly with municipalities to revise these regulations in a way that balances environmental resilience with economic viability and local planning needs.

New Jersey's mayors are committed to responsible governance. We ask that our voices be heard and our communities protected. Restoring Energy Tax Receipts and revising the REAL rules are essential steps toward a stronger, more sustainable New Jersey.

Signed,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_