

RESOLUTION 2015 - 366

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT THE ADEQUATE
FUNDING OF THE LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(LIHEAP)**

WHEREAS, the St Johns County Board of County Commissioners recognizes electric and gas utility service to be a vital key to the health, safety and well-being of Florida households and families; and

WHEREAS, low-income families in Florida disproportionately spend about three times more of their income on basic energy services than the typical middle-income America family; and

WHEREAS, homes in low income and minority communities severely lack energy efficiency features that enable lower energy bills; and

WHEREAS, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been an effective and successful program in meeting the energy needs of low income elderly, disabled veterans and working poor households, and those making the difficult transition from welfare to work throughout the United States and Florida; and

WHEREAS, another impactful solution to increase Florida's share of funding, without increasing the overall federal LIHEAP budget is for Congressional budget appropriators to simply follow the enabling law-the allocation formula actually prescribed by Congress. Florida and other states in great need would see a significant increase in their LIHEAP share. In fact, the Congressional Research Service's latest (June 25, 2015) estimate confirmed that Florida would conservatively gain an additional \$38.5 million in LIHEAP funding- or 55%- if appropriations adhered to the LIHEAP's enabling law ; and

WHEREAS, the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) and other consumer advocate groups support increased LIHEAP funding and have asked that LIHEAP funding be increased to \$407 billion for FY2016, which is the fully authorized funding level approved in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals.

The above Recitals are hereby incorporated into the body of this Resolution, and are adopted as findings of fact.

Section 2. Recognition

