Bloomfield letter: Energy program

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BLOOMFIELD LIFE

To the editor:

Contrary to Richard Galioto Sr.'s assertion in his recent letter, the Bloomfield Community Energy Aggregation program will expand the range of energy choice for Bloomfield residents. The program also has the potential to provide significant savings to residents on their electric bills.

Community Energy Aggregation was created by the New Jersey Legislature to allow municipalities such as Bloomfield to purchase energy in bulk on behalf of their residents at prices lower than the average utility price. The energy aggregation program is highly regulated by the NJ Board of Public Utilities and includes consumer protections absent from the separate program that allows residents to individually choose third-party energy suppliers.

In fact, by law any energy supplier with whom Bloomfield enters a contract with must always charge rates equal to or lower than the regular retail prices charged by PSE&G. The sudden and significant price increases that some people have been charged by their individual third-party suppliers cannot and will not occur in the Community Energy Aggregation Program.

Community Energy Aggregation programs are being implemented by an increasing number of towns and cities across New Jersey because they save residents money on their energy bills. Toms River recently started their program which is projected to return annual savings of $110 for the typical residential customer and $4 million for the entire town.

Those who choose not to participate in the savings may opt-out of the program at any time, before or after it starts, with no penalty. The opt-out provision was included in the law by the state legislature to encourage participation to achieve the greatest savings.

Our mayor and town council should be commended for pursuing innovative strategies for saving residents money and improving our quality of life.

Ginny Cocchi

Bloomfield