

2011-J3511

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 5, 2012 as Canada Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Canada is New York's primary export market, with \$35.1 billion worth of merchandise goods exchanged and almost 19 percent of New York's worldwide exports sold to Canada in 2010; and 517,000 New York jobs are supported by Canada-U.S. trade; and

WHEREAS, Over 19 million New Yorkers depend on Canada and its vast energy reserves to fuel our state, importing over \$4.7 billion worth of energy from Canada last year including natural gas, petroleum and electricity; and

WHEREAS, There was a healthy and balanced trade in agriculture and food products between Canada and New York State of well over \$2.2 billion last year; and

WHEREAS, New York and Canada share several important international trade corridors, including the Quebec-NY Corridor, The Capitol Corridor and Continental One and 17 total international border crossings; and

WHEREAS, The New York-Canada partnership boasts the largest bilateral tourism industry in the United States with over 3.4 million Canadians visiting New York, accounting for over \$1.2 billion in expenditures in 2010 and over 1.6 million New Yorkers visiting Canada, accounting for over 569 million dollars in expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States on February 4, 2011 issued Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness, establishing a new long-term partnership built upon a perimeter approach to security and economic competitiveness including working together, not just at the border, but beyond the border to enhance security and accelerate the legitimate flow of people, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Eastern Air Defense Sector responsible for air sovereignty and counter-air operations over the eastern United States is headquartered at Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome, New York, and is staffed by active-duty New York Air National Guardsmen and a Canadian Forces detachment; the unit supports the North American Aero-

space Defense Command's (NORAD) integrated warning and attack assessment missions and the U.S. Northern Command's (USNORTHCOM) homeland defense mission; and

WHEREAS, New York's western and northern borders were the frontlines in the War of 1812, a seminal period in the process of nation building in both countries, and from whose death and destruction was born a vision of peace between the United States and Canada which has resulted in unparalleled cooperation, prosperity and friendship between two nations, and where the deepest roots and daily expressions of this bond can be found in the cross-border regions linking New York with its Canadian neighbors in Ontario and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 80 percent of New York's fresh surface water, over 700 miles of shoreline, and 40 percent of New York's land, spreading over 25 counties are contained in the drainage basins of the Lower Great Lakes waters of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, all shared with Canada; and sustaining life, providing recreation, and supporting local and regional economies, the Great Lakes are a true natural legacy to the people of New York and its neighboring provinces in Canada, Ontario and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, Academic institutions in both Canada and New York are actively engaged in a number of linkages and partnerships including exchange programs and joint degrees; and

WHEREAS, Both Canada and New York State are actively engaged in a number of partnerships in various fields of innovative technology which are laying the foundations for their economic futures and mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS, Canada and New York share many more deep economic, historical, cultural and familial ties as well; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 5, 2012 as Canada Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the Canadian Consulate Generals in Buffalo and New York City; and the Eastern Air Defense Sector.