

2013-J2246

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Clearwater Festival

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Clearwater Festival, better known as the Great Hudson River Revival, to be celebrated on June 15-16, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Clearwater Festival is produced by the nonprofit, member-supported, environmental organization Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., or "Clearwater"; its sources go directly to support Clearwater's environmental research, education and advocacy efforts to help preserve and protect the Hudson River and its tributaries, as well as communities in the river valley; and

WHEREAS, Clearwater has introduced over half a million people to the wonders of the Hudson estuary aboard the sloop Clearwater; recently, Clearwater played a key role in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) decision to remove PCBs from the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Pete Seeger, the founder of Clearwater, was named a "Clean Water Hero" for his prominent efforts in support of the Clean Water Act; today, seeing the success of the Clearwater organization, one cannot imagine these achievements being possible without the Clearwater Festival; the Great Hudson River Revival has served as a beacon toward raising awareness in support of America's First River; and

WHEREAS, Back in the mid-1960s, after centuries of accumulated sewage

pollution and industrial dumping of toxic chemicals, the Hudson River, like many of America's most important estuaries, was declared lifeless; the river's fragile ecological system was devastated; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing this incredible environmental tragedy, Pete Seeger, a popular musician and respected activist, decided to build a boat to save the river; hosting small, supportive river concerts throughout the Hudson River Valley, he literally passed his banjo among the crowd, earning support to build the elegant tall ship that would become a symbol of environmental advocacy, the flagship of the American Environmental Movement, the sloop Clearwater; and

WHEREAS, This nomadic folk festival picnic continued to travel throughout the Hudson River Valley, then in 1978 the gathering set down roots at a historic river park, Croton Point, on the Hudson River and was coined The Great Hudson River Revival; however, 10 years later, due to pollution problems with the landfill at the park, the festival was forced to move from the river; and

WHEREAS, This particular move resulted in a decade of exile inland at a suburban college campus; in 1998, however, the Clearwater board of directors pushed to move the festival on or near the Hudson River, and a year later the Clearwater Festival returned to its spiritual home, the shores of the Hudson River at Croton Point Park; since the 1960s, the Clearwater Festival has grown into the country's largest annual environmental celebration, its music, dance and storytelling, education and activism attracting thousands of people of all ages to the shores of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals, events and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments

are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Clearwater Festival; and be it

further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pete Seeger, Clearwater Festival.