

2015-J1151

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the New York State Maple Weekend and recognizing its importance to the New York State agriculture industry

WHEREAS, The agriculture industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; and

WHEREAS, New York State and the entire United States is dependent on our agriculture industry for a variety of food products; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the New York State Maple Weekend and recognize its importance to the New York State agriculture industry, to be celebrated on March 21-22 and March 28-29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Maple Weekend is one of the premier agri-tourism events in the United States; approximately 160 maple producers across New York State open their facilities to 500,000 visitors who are interested in learning how maple syrup and related maple products are made from the tree to their table; and

WHEREAS, This family-oriented tradition began in the mid-1990s; today, the New York State Maple Producers Association invite people into their sugar houses throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, This year's Maple Weekend is scheduled for March 21-22 and March 28-29, 2015; these special days consist of witnessing the variety of equipment and methods used to make maple syrup and sampling a variety of maple products; many producers provide wagon rides to the woods, tapping demonstrations, and historical displays; and

WHEREAS, Over 650 maple farmers supply 356,000 gallons of syrup to consumers each year, making New York the second largest producer of maple syrup in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, New York State's award-winning maple syrup was recently named best-tasting in the United States; its 1.53 million taps produce enough sap to account for almost 18% of the maple syrup made in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of our farmers as they continue their hard work of cultivating the land, facing the many challenges of nature such as flood, drought and heat, in order to grow our food; and

WHEREAS, Through its diligence and expertise in maple syrup, the creators have brought pride and recognition to themselves, their local community, and to our great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the New York State Maple Weekend, and to recognize its importance to the New York State agriculture industry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York State Maple Producers Association.