

## 2015-J1457

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 22, 2015, as Earth Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to highlight days of awareness which draw attention to important and beneficial causes, and to pay tribute to those who have dedicated their time and energy to making the State of New York a clean, beautiful, environmentally friendly place to call home; and

WHEREAS, Responding to widespread environmental degradation, Gaylord Nelson, a United States Senator from Wisconsin, called for an environmental teach-in, or Earth Day, to be held on April 22, 1970; over 20 million people participated that year across the country, including an estimated one million people in New York City, the largest gathering in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is now observed each year on April 22nd by more than 500 million people as well as national governments in 175 countries; and

WHEREAS, Since Earth Day's inception, more and more evidence has been uncovered to demonstrate the devastating impacts of fossil fuels on our environment, particularly air pollution caused by carbon dioxide and methane which has triggered a wave of global climate change; and

WHEREAS, The rapid warming of our planet has already had observable effects on the environment; glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes is breaking up earlier, plant and animal ranges have shifted and trees are flowering sooner, according to NASA; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, effects that scientists had predicted in the past would result from global climate change are now occurring including the loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise, longer more intense heat waves and severe weather events; and

WHEREAS, It is the consensus of the vast majority of the global scientific community that human activities play a significant role in contributing to climate change, and that if we do not reduce carbon dioxide emissions emanating from fossil fuels, the warming of our planet and the proliferation of severe weather disasters will only worsen; and WHEREAS, New York's diverse mountain ranges, lakes, streams, rivers, forests, flora, and fauna are natural wonders that should be protected from depletion and pollution; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that our continued push for new development, investment in new technologies, and increased demand for our planet's natural resources is coupled with sustainability initiatives that encourage renewable energy, eco-friendly business practices, the creation of new green jobs, and long-term thinking about the environmental impact of new policies; and

WHEREAS, April 22, 2015, marks the 45th Anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside to celebrate the beauty and bounty of our planet and to revitalize the efforts required to protect, and maintain respect for, the environment and its resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That New York commits itself to undertaking programs and projects that enhance our community's natural environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That New York State hereby encourages its residents, businesses and institutions to use Earth Day to celebrate the Earth and commit to building a sustainable society; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body congratulate all the concerned citizens of New York State who have embraced the responsible work of protecting and preserving the environment for future generations.