

## 2015-J1846

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Peconic Land Trust upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2015 Champion Award by the Environmental Protection Agency

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of this great State and nation is greatly enriched by the purposeful endeavors of individuals and organizations committed to the preservation of our environment, and to the enhancement of appreciation for the distinctive features of our natural surroundings; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Peconic Land Trust upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2015 Champion Award by the Environmental Protection Agency which was formally presented on Friday, April 24, 2015, in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presents the illustrious Champion Awards during Earth Week to recognize individuals, businesses, members of the media, and environmental and community-based groups whose work has protected the environment and improved public health; and

WHEREAS, The Peconic Land Trust was established in 1983 by John V.H. Halsey and a small group of local residents to ensure the protection of Long Island's working farms, natural lands, and heritage; and

WHEREAS, For over three decades, the Peconic Land Trust has worked diligently with landowners, communities, municipalities, and partner organizations to protect nearly 11,000 acres of land; it has conserved more working farms on Long Island than any other private conservation organization, and securing significant funds from the public and private sector for land protection; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the members of this remarkable organization have strived to carry out necessary research and planning to identify and implement alternatives to outright development, while working to conserve productive farms, watershed, woodlands, and beachfront; they also work to protect the unique rural heritage and natural resources of the region; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Peconic Land Trust is involved in a wide variety of projects focusing on such areas as sustainable development, climate change, surface and groundwater protection, and the health of Peconic Bay; its innovative, ground-breaking work continues to serve as a model for other communities to replicate; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon every citizen to recognize that we are all stewards of our environment and to applaud the efforts of the Peconic Land Trust who work tirelessly to protect our environment and natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Peconic Land Trust upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2015 Champion Award by the Environmental Protection Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Peconic Land Trust.