

## 2015-J1890

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Travis O'Dell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Young Professionals Award by the SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young adults within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who serve as role models for their peers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Travis O'Dell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Young Professionals Award by the SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT; and

WHEREAS, Travis O'Dell, Resource Specialist of Upper Delaware Council and Sales Associate of Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties, was selected for this esteemed recognition for being hardworking, ambitious, and creative; and

WHEREAS, Travis O'Dell is the sixth generation of his family to run the Milk Homestead, a 100-acre farm built in the 1850s, sitting astride a Catskills ridge just north of Long Eddy, New York; now raising his own family within the same house, the 30-year-old is extremely invested in the land and local community; and

WHEREAS, Guiding the family farm into the 21st Century, Travis O'Dell has expanded beyond Icelandic lamb production into grass-fed beef and pastured poultry; his wife and daughters share in the healthy food he's now marketing to direct consumers; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Roscoe Central School, Travis O'Dell earned a Bachelor of Technology degree in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill; and

WHEREAS, Over the years Travis O'Dell has served as a Waterbird Field

Technician for the Bird Observatory in Colorado, spending much of his time in South Dakota conducting surveys to develop a waterbird management program there; he also studied wetland and waterfowl in both Chantilly, Virginia, and Nanuet, New York, and served as a Park Ranger for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS, For four years, Travis O'Dell took up carpentry prior to joining the Upper Delaware Council, where he currently holds the esteemed position of Resource Specialist; and

WHEREAS, As a Resource Specialist of the Upper Delaware Council, Travis O'Dell's primary duties and responsibilities include preparing technical reports, helping with the public, and maintaining the company website; for more than two years, he has become a trusted resource on land use, zoning, and planning issues in the Upper Delaware River Valley, not only with the Upper Delaware Council but also with community members, businesses, and local, state, and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, Travis O'Dell has been instrumental in balancing, coordinating studies and grants to acquire the involved groups of local towns and agencies to collaborate on sensitive issues; guiding him is the River Management Plan, created when the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River designation came into effect three decades ago, which the Upper Delaware Council administers; and

WHEREAS, Through his strong partnerships with member towns, Travis O'Dell's projects move forward in ways that complement economic development and protect the unique resources in the Upper Delaware; he continues to protect the Delaware's beauty and resources while accommodating much-valued local jurisdiction and development; and

WHEREAS, An avid outdoorsman, Travis O'Dell harvests sustainably managed hardwoods for custom orders on his sawmill as part of the family business; and

WHEREAS, Utilizing his vast skillset, Travis O'Dell has launched himself into real estate, representing properties through the Catskill

Mountains with Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties; and

WHEREAS, A farmer, real estate salesperson, land use expert, and more, Travis O'Dell spends his time and energies volunteering as President of the Basket Historical Society in Long Eddy, and has become a vital part of the nonprofit, including its popular newsletter, THE ECHO; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Travis O'Dell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Young Professionals Award by the SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Travis O'Dell.