

2015-J4016

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Great Lakes Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo on April 15, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched and reliably served by the purposeful endeavors of organizations that are committed to the preservation of our natural environment and the enhancement of the appreciation of the distinctive features of our surroundings, and to the economic well-being of the areas in which they exist; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Great Lakes Center at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo to be celebrated at a party on Friday, April 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Center (GLC) is an institute of researchers and educators at SUNY Buffalo dedicated to investigating the ecology of the Great Lakes and their tributaries; many of its outstanding staff members are full time research scientists or technicians, and two are Professors with the Biology department; and

WHEREAS, In addition to lab facilities on the main campus, the GLC has a field station on the waterfront and a fleet of boats to conduct its field studies; this invaluable center offers Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Great Lakes Ecosystem Science; and

WHEREAS, For the last 50 years, the GLC has strived to improve the quality of the environment by providing the best possible science to decision-makers concerned with the health and sustainability of resources, with a primary focus within the Great Lakes and their

watersheds; this is accomplished through high quality research, informed and current graduate and undergraduate education, and dissemination of information to the public through outreach; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the GLC is committed to improving human-environment interactions in the Great Lakes ecosystem guided, in part, by an understanding of the evolutionary and ecological processes and patterns acting on the system; and

WHEREAS, Although the main focus of the research in the Great Lakes Center concentrates on the Great Lakes basin, national and international projects are also considered of high priority as they expose scientists to the cutting edge of modern science, facilitate collaboration, and greatly increase visibility to the center's activity in the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes are the largest system of accessible freshwater on Earth: these inland seas are bounded by eight states and one province and contain about 20 percent of the world's supply of fresh water; over 30 million people live within the watershed, including more than one-tenth of the United States population and one-quarter of the Canadian population; and

WHEREAS, Millions of Americans and Canadians depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, agriculture, transportation, industry, power generation, and fisheries, as well as recreation; and

WHEREAS, Though incredibly vast, the Great Lakes are threatened by decades of use; Lake Erie is densely populated, heavily industrialized and cultivated for agriculture; toxic chemicals and nutrients accumulated over time from direct disposal, runoff, and atmospheric deposition are still within the basins of these lakes; and

WHEREAS, Other stressors to the Great Lakes are aquatic invasive species and habitat degradation; continued urbanization reduces habitat refuges for native species, while increased international shipping can increase the risk of the invasion of non-native species; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo, New York, is one of 17 large city regions on the Great Lakes; the Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State is in a unique position to provide high-quality research and education opportunities to people who are living on and being impacted by Lake Erie and Lake Ontario; and

WHEREAS, The center has a research facility located on the waterfront, a fleet of boats, and field equipment that can be used to help answer questions about the ecological processes and patterns acting on the system; and

WHEREAS, Understanding a complex system like the Great Lakes requires specialized knowledge from many different disciplines; the Great Lakes Center actively conducts collaborative research with other institutions and agencies throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization's research focuses primarily on Lakes Erie and Ontario and their tributaries, although national and international projects are also a priority; research topics include: aquatic ecology, aquatic invasive species, biodiversity and conservation of freshwater mollusks, botulism outbreaks, endocrine disruptor effects in fish populations, fisheries, food web dynamics, freshwater benthic communities, limnology, long-term monitoring projects, nutrient stoichiometry and lake budgets, population ecology, predator/prey behavioral ecology, sediment dynamics, stream ecology, toxicology, trophic interactions, water quality, and wetland chemistry and hydrology, as well as zooplankton ecology; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of Director Alexander Karayatev, the GLC boasts 13 full-time employees including scientists, faculty members, research technicians, field station personnel, and support staff; and

WHEREAS, The GLC also employs students from Buffalo State and the University at Buffalo; in addition, the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), a sponsored program funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

through the Research Foundation, is also administered by the center; and WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the GLC has become widely recognized for its invaluable work throughout the world; the organization has collaborated with more than 80 scientists and grant funding has increased tenfold since 2007-2008; and

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WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of organizations such as the Great Lakes Center which work tirelessly on behalf of protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Great Lakes Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo on April 15, 2016; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alexander Karayatev, Director, the Great Lakes Center.