

2015-J4584

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing the delegation of Ukrainian officials who wish to further solidify Ukraine's democratization by learning from New York's State Legislators and implementing this knowledge in their own regional and national governments

WHEREAS, The largest country in Europe, Ukraine has a population of nearly 46 million people; on August 24, 1991, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union, establishing a free, democratic state; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2013, Ukraine embarked on a massive social, political and economic transformation via the Euromaidan revolution; this revolution of dignity helped to turn Ukraine westward by beginning the process of Europeanization and democratization; and

WHEREAS, Social activists, non-governmental organization leaders, rising political figures, and the citizens of Ukraine risked their lives fighting for freedom and democracy in Ukraine's Independence Square in the capital city of Kyiv; and

WHEREAS, Since the Euromaidan revolution ended, Ukraine has experienced numerous hardships, such as the Russian annexation of Crimea and the Russian invasion of the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, Even in the face of so much tragedy, Ukraine's people and political leaders continue to strive for a complete democratic system within their borders that is free of corruption and Soviet style politics; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Ukrainian delegation who are visiting Albany, New York, are just a few of the Western thinking leaders who have come to the New York State Legislature to learn about legislative processes and bring that knowledge back to their homeland; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body applauds the efforts made by the visit-

ing Ukrainian Delegation as well as the Ukrainian government for their efforts in democratizing their nation, with the hope that the knowledge they gain from discussions with New York's Legislators will be taken back to Ukraine and implemented within their own political system; and WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to host Ukrainian journalists, non-governmental organization leaders, regional councilmen, business leaders, diplomats, and professors from different parts of the country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the delegation of Ukrainian officials who wish to further solidify Ukraine's democratization by learning from New York's State Legislators and implementing this knowledge in their own regional and national governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Ukrainian delegation.