

Assembly Resolution No. 1384

BY: M. of A. Jenne

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of North
Country Public Radio

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in the success of public radio stations and their ability to effectively communicate information to our communities, cities and the nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of North Country Public Radio; and

WHEREAS, North Country Public Radio is located in Canton, New York; St. Lawrence University (SLU) was gifted a transmitter in 1965 when a commercial operator sitting on SLU's Board of Trustees shut down an FM station; two years later in 1967, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Public Broadcasting Act setting up public broadcasting in the United States; and

WHEREAS, WSLU, 96.7 FM, went on air for the first time on March 7, 1968, in the North Country with a staff of two professionals and a number of college students with a few hours of local programming each day; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, WSLU became a charter member of National Public Radio (NPR), increased its broadcast day to 18 hours, and began receiving support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB); the size of the staff increased over the following decade and by 1980 the "founding mothers" had become part of the leadership team and looked to expand its operation; in 1979, an on air fundraiser raised \$2,000 from 45 members; and

WHEREAS, WSLU became North Country Public Radio (NCPR) in 1984, and the station began to expand its footprint in the Adirondack North Country region; the station's 3,000 watt transmitter was replaced by a 40,300 watt transmitter allowing the station to reach a transmitter placed in Saranac Lake; and

WHEREAS, Transmitters were placed in Watertown, Blue Mountain Lake, Lake Placid, Long Lake, Alexandria Bay, Malone and Tupper Lake over the next few years and the station now has 32 transmitters blanketing the Adirondacks and North Country; and

WHEREAS, The station's news team routinely captures national recognition for its regional coverage of issues ranging from prison reform to environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, NCPR was awarded the New York State Associated Press Steve Flanders Award in 2007-2008 for having the top news operation in the State; and

WHEREAS, The station's commitment to excellence has enjoyed strong

support from the region it serves; today's on air fundraisers raised approximately \$1.5 million annually from thousands of listeners and local business supporters; and

WHEREAS, The station offers a host of local programs ranging from news and information programming such as the Eight O'Clock Hour, Natural Selections and Readers and Writers On The Air to daily music shows including Music for a Monday Afternoon, Blue Note, Radio Bob's Rhythm and Blues Show, String Fever and the Beat Authority; and

WHEREAS, NCPR also airs popular national programs including All Things Considered, Weekend Edition, Fresh Air, On Point, This American Life, Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me and Only a Game; and

WHEREAS, In an era of frequent staff changes at media organizations, NCPR has maintained a staff with deep ties to the station and to the region and is an award winning national pioneer radio station; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of North Country Public Radio; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of the Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to North Country Public Radio.