

BY: Senator O'MARA

CONGRATULATING Mark Watts upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service to the Chemung County Soil and Water District

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Mark Watts upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service to the Chemung County Soil and Water District; and

WHEREAS, Mark Watts began his illustrious career with the Chemung County Soil and Water District in the summer of 1983, as a 21-year old technician to assist with the Conservation Tillage Program; the following year he graduated with an Associate degree in Animal Science; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Mark Watts became the District Field Manager before being promoted to District Manager in 1990, the esteemed position from which he will retire; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Mark Watts was instrumental in countless projects and initiatives, including the Old Chemung Canal, Bentley Creek PL-566, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Dam Maintenance, Sperr Park Project, Stormwater Engineer Team-MS4, Countywide Stream Equipment Program, Emergency Stream Intervention Program, Catherine Valley Trail, State Route 14 Angler's Parking Lot, House Buyout Program, Town of Southport Wetland Project, White Wagon Boat Launch and numerous stream jobs throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, throughout his tenure, which traversed nearly four decades, Mark Watts was vital to the success of the Southern Tier Agricultural Enhancement Program, Agricultural Legislative Tours, the AEM program, manure storage constructions, and the Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program; and

WHEREAS, Mark Watts grew up on his family's dairy and beef farm at 1046 Dutch Hill Road in Pine City, New York; in 2003, after the death of his father, Mark and his brother Jim took over the operation, and continue to run the farm today; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Mark Watts has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including Who's Who in Students of America, Certificate of Achievement in 4-H, Certificate of Achievement in Agricultural Business, New York Farm Bureau Citizenship Award, Dekalb Agricultural

Accomplishment Award, John Cattell Memorial Scholarship, 4-H Scholarship Award, Willard F. Crone Award and the Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal; and

WHEREAS, While he is passionate about many things, in his spare time Mark Watts enjoys woodworking, hunting and being with his family; and

WHEREAS, For 38 years, Mark Watts rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Chemung County, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Mark Watts over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mark Watts upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mark Watts.