

BY: Senator PERSAUD

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2024, as Wildfire Safety Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious environmental disasters that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2024, as Wildfire Safety Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Wildfire Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, National Wildfire Awareness Month dedicates the entire month of May to increasing prevention and preparedness for wildfires throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Interagency Fire Center, humans cause an average of 68% of fires per year in the United States; of those human-started fires, 2.8 million acres burn each year; in 2018, 8,767,492 acres burned due to human-started fires and lightning strikes; and

WHEREAS, There are steps to take to prevent wildfires; from using fire resisting building materials to following the safety protocols for handling fire when camping, heating your home or storing fuel, all New Yorkers can take part in reducing wildfires; and

WHEREAS, While wildfires may not be prevalent in every state, the responsibility to be aware and alert belongs to everyone; the causes of wildfires can occur in every state, and as mobile as our lifestyles have become, everyone needs to be prepared; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of both the prevention and preparedness of wildfires, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2024, as Wildfire Safety Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.