

**BY:** M. of A. McMahon

**COMMEMORATING** the 55th Anniversary of Earth Day on  
April 22, 2025

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations and persons dedicating their purposeful work to increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural resources of New York, recognizing the role all citizens have in protecting the environment and the quality of life in this Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Responding to widespread environmental degradation, Gaylord Nelson, a United States Senator from Wisconsin, called for an environmental teach-in, or Earth Day, to be held on April 22, 1970; over 20 million people participated that year; and

**WHEREAS,** Earth Day is now observed each year on April 22, by more than 500 million people and national governments in 175 countries; and

**WHEREAS,** In the 55 years that have passed since the original Earth Day, the planet has been subjected to the continuing burdens of world population growth, increasing commercial and residential development, ocean pollution, increasing stores of toxic and nuclear waste, and other similar assaults which have exacerbated the growing dangers of global climate change, ozone depletion, toxic poisoning, deforestation and mass species extinctions; and

**WHEREAS,** Following the first Earth Day, and the demonstrations of concern of over 20 million Americans, a collective national action has resulted in the passage of sweeping new laws to protect the invaluable resources of air, land and water; and

**WHEREAS,** A sound natural environment is the foundation of a healthy society and a robust economy in that it works hand in hand with the creation of green jobs, boosts sustainable agriculture in communities and allows for New Yorkers to take in the natural elements that have defined our State; and

**WHEREAS,** Human activities around the world are causing severe environmental damage that threatens human health and our planet's ability to sustain a diverse community of life such as a heavy dependence on fossil fuels, widespread use of toxic chemicals in food and other consumer goods, devastation of forests, hazardous chemicals that have affected children and families in our many environmental justice communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The knowledge of ways to live in harmony with our environment and methods and technologies to accomplish this end already exists in the pristine natural resources that New York State has to offer for sustainable communities in rich agriculture, clean waters and a movement that promotes reliance on renewable energy resources and

recycling; and

**WHEREAS,** Local communities can do much to reverse environmental degradation and contribute to building a healthy society by promoting energy conservation, sustainable land use policies, and public transit; and

**WHEREAS,** There are sound economic, environmental, and social reasons for local governments to initiate energy efficiency and renewable energy practices; and

**WHEREAS,** The environmental realities of our time require humans to make a dramatic shift in our relationship to the earth; and

**WHEREAS,** April 22, 2025, marks the 55th Anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside to celebrate the beauty and bounty of our environment and to revitalize the efforts required to protect, and maintain respect for, the environment and its resources; and

**WHEREAS,** Earth Day 2025 activities and events will educate all citizens on the importance of acting in an environmentally sensitive fashion by recycling, conserving energy and water, using efficient transportation, and adopting more ecologically sound lifestyles; and

**WHEREAS,** The goal of Earth Day 2025 is not to plan only one day of events and activities, but to continue worldwide efforts to protect all aspects of the environment; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2025; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That New York commits itself to undertaking programs and projects that enhance our community's natural environment; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That New York State hereby encourages its residents, businesses and institutions to use Earth Day to celebrate the Earth and commit to building a sustainable society; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body congratulate all the concerned citizens of New York State who have embraced the responsible work of protecting and preserving the environment for future generations.