

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Chris Pawelski in recognition of his outstanding efforts on behalf of onion farmers and the onion farming industry in New York State

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski has given not only of his time and energies, but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Chris Pawelski in recognition of his outstanding efforts on behalf of onion farmers, and the onion farming industry in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Onions are one of the most important vegetable crops in New York State with annual sales of approximately \$52 million; and

WHEREAS, New York accounts for 97% of the onion production in the northeastern United States, and ranks sixth in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski is a fourth-generation Orange County onion farmer who has devoted much of the last 16 years to improving agriculture and the lives of his fellow farmers through networking to educate local, state and federal representatives, as well as the media, on the policies that impact their industry; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski attended the University of Iowa, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in broadcasting and film studies; he found himself drawn back to farming and, in 1993, returned to Orange County to a 50 acre farm alongside his father's and brother's land; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski's advocacy focuses on the plight of farmers like himself who struggle with the havoc wreaked by severe weather and the sometimes bewildering agricultural policies of government; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski and his wife, Eve Pawelski, suffered through several weather related disasters, including the destruction of their crop by a hailstorm in 1996; they have had seven 50-year floods in the last eight years; and

WHEREAS, In 2011 Chris Pawelski offered a bag of onions for sale on eBay for \$150,000 to draw attention to the need for an ad hoc crop loss program for the Eastern Seaboard after Hurricane Irene leveled crops in Orange County, including his own; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski has helped to bring about significant reforms and aid to his community, including changes in crop loss and crop insurance policies and the creation of new conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, Chris Pawelski's passion, deep knowledge, ability to explain complex issues, and commitment to finding solutions have earned him the respect and admiration of his community, experts in the field, and policymakers at the local, State and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, He has been interviewed, filmed and quoted by diverse sources including CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS, THE NEW YORK TIMES, CNN, the CBS Evening News, BBC World Service News, and Univision; he has also been featured in THE HINDU, the largest English-speaking newspaper in India; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, Chris Pawelski has written a book, MUCKVILLE: FARM POLICY, MEDIA AND THE STRANGE ODDITIES OF SEMI-RURAL LIFE, described as an inside look at a farmer's fight to influence agriculture policy in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of our farmers as they continue their hard work of cultivating the land, facing the many challenges of nature such as

flood, drought and heat, in order to grow our food cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Chris Pawelski in recognition of his outstanding efforts on behalf of onion farmers and the onion farming industry in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitable engrossed, be transmitted to Chris Pawelski.