

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION welcoming Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, to the United States, and reaffirming New York's sister city relationships with China

WHEREAS, Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the United States of America (hereafter referred to as the US) and the People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China) in 1979, bilateral trade has increased by 200 times and China is the fastest expanding export market for the US; and

WHEREAS, There are 41 pairs of sister states/provinces and 203 pairs of sister cities between the US and China and the two countries also established the US-China Governors Forum in January 2011 to support subnational cooperation, which provide channels and opportunities for exchange and cooperation between the two countries and peoples; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in acknowledging its sister city relationships; and

WHEREAS, They believe that establishing such partnerships will deepen their mutual understanding, strengthen their mutual trust, expand consensus, and enhance cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Over 10,000 Americans and Chinese fly across the Pacific every day and people in both countries are seeking broader and deeper exchanges and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, The new model of major-country relationship between the US and China is built on mutual respect and win-win cooperation while avoiding conflicts and confrontations; and

WHEREAS, China is the largest source of import and third largest export market of the State of New York, with exports exceeding \$5 billion in 2014, an increase of 170% over the previous 10 years; and

WHEREAS, The strong cultural, educational and tourism ties shared by the State of New York and China have grown substantially over the recent years and have helped foster strong friendship between our two peoples; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of New York have enjoyed a sister state relationship with the people of China's Jiangsu Province since 1989, and there are 10 pairs of sister cities between the State of New York and China; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese community has become increasingly significant and one of the fastest growing communities in the State of New York and Governor Cuomo signed the law in December 2014 to make Chinese New Year a public school holiday; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the ongoing all-around relationship between New York and China as serving mutual interests in a reciprocal manner; to warmly welcome the President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping, on his visit to the United States in September of 2015, which will provide a great opportunity to reinforce the US-China relationship; to reaffirm its commitment to promoting relationships with China in such areas as business, education, culture, tourism and friendship between the two peoples; to highlight the significance of the long-term relations with China that will bring concrete benefits to peoples of both countries; and to stand ready to advance parliamentary ties with the provincial legislature of Jiangsu Province of the People's Republic of China; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mr. Xi Jinping, President of China.