Senate Resolution No. 2016

BY: Senator ASHBY

HONORING Diane X. Burman upon the occasion of the completion of her term as Commissioner of the New York State Public Service Commission

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Diane X. Burman upon the occasion of the completion of her term as Commissioner of the New York State Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, For the past 11 years, and in her previous capacity holding the position of Public Service Commissioner, Diane X. Burman rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to the citizens of the State of New York, earning the admiration, esteem, and affection of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Starting in 1991, Diane X. Burman spent several years working in the New York State Court system, first as a Clerk at the Court of Appeals and subsequently as a Senior Court Attorney at the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Showing a true dedication to the practice of law in the public interest, Diane X. Burman held various positions as an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the State Attorney General, an Assistant Counsel at the New York State Department of Economic Development, and a Special Counsel to the Commission at the New York State Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, As a woman with a zeal to improve the lives of others in a professional capacity, Diane X. Burman worked as the Director of the Department of Pro Bono Affairs at the New York State Bar Association, the Assistant Executive Director at the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center and as the Executive Director of the New York State Parent Teacher Association; and

WHEREAS, As a director, advisor and volunteer in many industry panels and eleemosynary organizations, including as a Member of the Albany NY Women in Energy Group, the Women in Energy and Communications in New York and the Congregation Beth Emeth in Albany NY, Diane X. Burman tirelessly contributed to the welfare of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Earning a reputation as a hands-on attorney who was committed to the welfare of the People of New York, Diane X. Burman answered the call to become the first female Chief Counsel to the Majority Conference of the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Having earned the respect, admiration and trust of Senators from all parties and all parts of the State, she was nominated in 2013 to the New York State Public Service Commission and confirmed unanimously by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Having distinguished herself as a thoughtful, open-minded and caring adjudicator, Diane X. Burman was again nominated to the New York State Public Service Commission in 2018 and unanimously confirmed by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as New York State Public Service Commissioner, Diane X. Burman served with dedication, honor and distinction, governed by a keen sense of duty while displaying a unique grasp of the industries that she was charged to regulate and in her official acts, kept the safety, reliability and affordability of the state's energy, telecommunications and private water systems at the forefront of her efforts on behalf of utility customers in New York State, and served in numerous roles at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, including Chair of the Gas Committee, Member of the Board of Trustees, and the Chair of the United States Department of Energy and NARUC Natural Gas Partnership, and lead consensus-building at the Gas Technology Institute Public Interest Advisory Panel and as the Vice Chair of the United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Gas Policy Advisory Committee, among her numerous professional roles; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to express our gratitude on behalf of the state's citizens and to commend and honor Diane X. Burman upon the occasion of the completion of her term as Commissioner of the New York State Public Service Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Diane X. Burman.