Assembly Resolution No. 355

BY: M. of A. McMahon

COMMEMORATING the 53rd Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2023

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 53 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, 2023, marks the 53rd 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 2023 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 2023 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 53rd Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2023; 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.