

BY: Senator O'MARA

HONORING Martha Sauerbrey upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of distinguished service to the Tioga County Legislature

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Martha Sauerbrey upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of distinguished service to the Tioga County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Nichols, New York, Martha Sauerbrey has been a lifelong resident of Tioga County, and she graduated from Tioga Central High School and later earned her degree in business economics from SUNY Empire; and

WHEREAS, Martha Sauerbrey began her political career by working with the late New York State Senator Tom Libous, who was the Tioga County representative; and

WHEREAS, While working for Senator Tom Libous, Martha Sauerbrey deeply immersed herself in what was important to Tioga County, and she often attended events on behalf of Senator Tom Libous, recognized accomplished constituents within the district, and acted as the Senator's eyes and ears; and

WHEREAS, After leaving Senator Tom Libous' office, Martha Sauerbrey began working diligently at the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce, where she led and continued to support the citizens and businesses of Tioga County for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Martha Sauerbrey's call to service grew stronger, leading her to be elected to represent Tioga County's 2nd district, which included the Village of Owego, an office she held for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, While serving as a county legislator, Martha Sauerbrey was trusted to hold the position of chairwoman for 12 years, which required her to administer the day-to-day operations of the county; and

WHEREAS, During her service, Martha Sauerbrey proudly kept taxes low, supported veteran services and leadership development, created a county administrator role to oversee day-to-day operations, began developing a new radio system for first responders, developed a succession plan, and ensured Tioga County continued to develop, thrive, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her official title, Martha Sauerbrey also co-founded Tioga Women Lead in 2015 and the Institute for Advancement,

chaired a Shared Services Program, redeveloped the Anti-Drug Coalition, participated in the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and served on numerous boards and councils, including the IDA Board and the New York State Association of Counties Board; and

WHEREAS, Despite hardships and tragedies such as the historic floods in 2006 and 2011, which flooded Owego's downtown business district, and the coronavirus pandemic, Martha Sauerbrey was fueled by the unity in her community and remained on the frontlines as Tioga County built back and recovered; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her exemplary service, Martha Sauerbrey was named one of the region's "Movers and Shakers" in 2017 by the **Binghamton Press**, a title that reflected her strong commitment to progress; and

WHEREAS, For the past 20 years, Martha Sauerbrey rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Tioga County Legislature, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues and constituents; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as county legislator and chairwoman, Martha Sauerbrey served with loyalty, honor, and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, In her retirement, Martha Sauerbrey plans to travel more with her beloved husband, Lew, and spend time with her family and grandchildren; despite leaving office, Martha Sauerbrey will still remain in the county she has always called home, and she intends to always remain involved and engaged with her community; 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 honor Martha Sauerbrey upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of distinguished service to the Tioga County Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Martha Sauerbrey.