Senate Resolution No. 1509

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

HONORING Amy Meisenzahl of Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company upon the occasion of her designation as Emerging Entrepreneur by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated on March 19, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those outstanding individuals whose commitment, dedication, and service contribute significantly to the vitality and well-being of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Amy Meisenzahl of Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company upon the occasion of her designation as Emerging Entrepreneur by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its 53rd Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Samuel's Grande Manor in Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Amy Meisenzahl is pursuing a master's in supply chain management at the University at Buffalo, and she is a Western New York Prosperity Fellow, a designation that indicates she serves the community by contributing to economic development through new business ventures; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning from studying in Switzerland, Amy Meisenzahl recognized that the food system in the United States is flawed, and she was determined to be a part of improving access to affordable, high-quality, healthy snacks in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by summers sailing on Lake Ontario and her previous experience at the VanDeWalle Fruit Farm on Sodus Bay, combined with her motivation to improve her gut health and find affordable, whole-food snack options, Amy Meisenzahl founded Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company; and

WHEREAS, Operated in western New York, Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company is a local food manufacturing startup that is dedicated to producing clean, shelf-stable dried fruit snacks made from locally sourced ingredients; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company focuses on minimal processing, transparent sourcing, and scalable production practices that allow the business to grow without sacrificing quality or values; and

WHEREAS, In addition to addressing food quality in the United States, Amy Meisenzahl is determined to use Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company to help rebuild regional manufacturing capacity in western New York; by investing in local supply chains, working with the community, and automation, Amy Meisenzahl is determined to create sustainable jobs and keep economic value within the region; and

WHEREAS, The Clarence Chamber of Commerce's recognition of Amy Meisenzahl as Emerging Entrepreneur is a fitting tribute to an individual whose innovation and service has strengthened the Clarence

community and enriched the lives of countless individuals and families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Amy Meisenzahl of Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company upon the occasion of her designation as Emerging Entrepreneur by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 19, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Amy Meisenzahl of Great Lakes Dried Fruit Company.