

BY: Senator STEC

CONGRATULATING the Saranac Lake Girls Nordic Ski Team upon the occasion of capturing the 2026 NYSPHSAA Nordic Ski Championship

WHEREAS, Individual and team championships are highly sought after in high school sports; this Legislative Body commends rare athletic achievements and pays special recognition to those who pursue such excellence and become examples for the youth of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition helps to enhance both the moral and physical development of young athletes, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the importance of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the Saranac Lake Girls Nordic Ski Team and Head Coach Keith Kogut upon the occasion of capturing the 2026 NYSPHSAA Nordic Ski Championship; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, to the praise and applause of their excited fans, the Red Storm girls dominated the state competition, earning an impressive team score of 18 points, a great lead over the second-place team's 37 points; and

WHEREAS, Proudly donning the school's colors of red and white, family, friends, and the community at large loyally and enthusiastically supported the Red Storm girls throughout their journey as they ended their season by capturing the coveted championship title; and

WHEREAS, This momentous achievement marks the Saranac Lake Girls Nordic Ski program's first state championship win; and

WHEREAS, In a sport such as Nordic skiing, which demands athletic prowess, speed, and agility, Coach Keith Kogut, alongside his skilled coaching staff of Bridget O'Leary and Randy Young, worked hard to hone the skills of this championship team, teaching these outstanding athletes lessons which will prove invaluable as they go forward in life; and

WHEREAS, Coaches Keith Kogut, Bridget O'Leary, and Randy Young, and all of the outstanding athletes on the Saranac Lake Varsity Girls Nordic Ski Team have clearly utilized dedication, determination, and teamwork in providing a lasting contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the members of the Saranac Lake Girls Nordic Ski Team: Kelsi Burth, Pepper Laxson, Tyler Burth, Kaylee Holmes, Cadence Kennedy, Lila Zobel, and Amelia Evans; and Coaches Keith Kogut, Bridget O'Leary, and Randy Young on their outstanding season and capturing the 2026

NYSPHSAA Nordic Ski Championship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Saranac Lake Girls Nordic Ski Team and Coaches Keith Kogut, Bridget O'Leary, Randy Young.