

2013-J1015

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Upper Delaware Council

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of this great State and Nation is greatly enriched by the purposeful endeavors of individuals and organizations committed to the preservation of our environment, and to the enhancement of appreciation for the distinctive features of our natural surroundings; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Upper Delaware Council, to be celebrated at its Annual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 28, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Located in Narrowsburg, New York, the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) was unique in the world of river conservation and management when established in 1988 because it represented a formal partnership of local, state, and federal governments and agencies which have joined together to manage the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a true national treasure; the Council's existence evolved from special provisions in the 1978 legislation which designated the Upper Delaware River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and called for development of a management plan and a program providing for the coordinated implementation and administration of the plan; to that end, the UDC was formed in 1988; and

WHEREAS, What sets this River Management Plan apart is the commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect the resources on their own private property, as opposed to federal ownership of the land in the river corridor; as the driving force behind this specific plan, the UDC provides a mechanism to address

actions by local, state, and federal agencies which affect the river valley; and

WHEREAS, The Council membership operates under a long-term, renewable Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service; voting members are the two states (New York and Pennsylvania) and presently 13 out of the 15 local governments which border on the Upper Delaware River; in New York State, these include: the Town of Hancock in Delaware County; Towns of Fremont, Delaware, Cochection, Tusten, Highland, and Lumberland in Sullivan County; and the Town of Deerpark in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, members are the Townships of Berlin and Damascus in Wayne County, and Townships of Lackawaxen, Shohola, and Westfall in Pike County; the Delaware River Basin Commission is a non-voting member of the Council; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, the UDC has enjoyed remarkable success, having prevented significant incompatible uses proposed for the river valley, often before the proposal left the drawing board; and

WHEREAS, UDC committees and staff have worked with corridor towns and townships right from the beginning to ensure that control of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River stays in local hands, and that the River Valley voice is heard, and that the character of the corridor, in which a significant amount of the land is privately-owned, remains unique in the realm of federally-protected rivers; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon every citizen to recognize that we are all stewards of our environment and to applaud the outstanding effort of the Upper Delaware Council, who works tirelessly to protect our environment and natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Upper Delaware Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Laurie Ramie, Executive Director, Upper Delaware Council.