

2013-J3446

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Onondaga County's Save the Rain program upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2013 New York State Environmental Excellence Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations and institutions dedicated 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Onondaga County's Save the Rain program upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2013 New York State Environmental Excellence Award; this esteemed award was presented on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at the 10th Annual New York State Environmental Excellence Awards celebration, co-hosted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Price Chopper/The Golub Corporation in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Excellence awards program was established in 2004 to recognize ingenuity, creative partnerships, and leadership efforts that result in outstanding environmental, social, and economic benefits for New York State; and

WHEREAS, Onondaga County's Save the Rain program is an exemplar of exceptional environmental sustainability, social responsibility and economic viability; and

WHEREAS, The Save the Rain program features an innovative and comprehensive combined sewer overflow abatement program that integrates conventional wastewater/stormwater treatment technologies with advanced green infrastructure practices to improve water quality in the Onondaga

Lake watershed; and

WHEREAS, Through Save the Rain, Onondaga County has transformed the civic strip in downtown Syracuse, New York, into a green infrastructure corridor; and

WHEREAS, Several marquee projects for the Save the Rain program are located within the civic strip, including a 66,000-square-foot green roof, a water reuse cistern system, bioretention plantings, underground infiltration systems and porous pavement; and

WHEREAS, In addition, multiple state-of-the-art green energy technologies have been incorporated, including LED lighting, solar-powered trash compaction, and electric car charging stations; and

WHEREAS, The remarkable and resourceful civic strip projects are capturing approximately 6.2 million gallons of stormwater annually, resulting in an energy savings of approximately 12,450 kilowatt hours each year; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of municipalities such as Onondaga County that work tirelessly on behalf of preserving and protecting our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Onondaga County's Save the Rain program upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2013 New York State Environmental Excellence Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Onondaga County.