

2013-J3474

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare 2014 as the Year of Family Farming in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Family Farming is a part of the foundation on which our distinct American tradition is built; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare 2014 as the Year of Family Farming in the State of New York, in conjunction with the International Year of Family Farming as declared by the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, Family Farming refers to agricultural communities encompassing familial groups, indigenous clusters, and neighborhood cooperatives engaged in the production of farm crops, livestock or marine aquaculture; there are over 500 million of such farms worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 International Year of Family Farming is an initiative promoted by the World Rural Forum and supported by over 360 civil society and farmers' organizations; it was officially proclaimed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and its General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) is to raise the profile of family farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, particularly in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Family Farming links the past, present, and future through passing on cultural traditions and agricultural know-how to the next generation of farmers in different communities across the planet; and

WHEREAS, Tremendously important to world food security, they preserve

indigenous food products, while also contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agricultural biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Though representing close to 80 percent of all farm holdings, family farms are highly vulnerable to many dangers including market volatility and climate change; the majority of smallholders lack access to lines of credit, technology, and resources; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has called on governments to empower family farmers, especially women and young people, by creating policies conducive to equitable and sustainable rural development and investment; and

WHEREAS, Investing in family farms represents an opportunity to boost agricultural production to feed a rising world population; it has the potential to strengthen local economies, especially when combined with specific policies aimed at social protection and well-being of communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare 2014 as the Year of Family Farming in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.