

## 2015-K663

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to advocate to open up the shipping ports controlled by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and to urge the Commissioners on the Port Authority to begin exploring the opening of the shipping ports for authorized exports to the Republic of Cuba

WHEREAS, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo led a trade mission and traveled to the Republic of Cuba in 2015; and

WHEREAS, This was a significant and important step to open up markets for New York businesses, and to send a message of friendship and support to the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has exercised his constitutional authority over United States foreign policy and has determined it is in the best interest, both strategically and nationally, to restore full diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, There are still barriers to overcome, such as the United States Trade Embargo on Cuba, which must be lifted by an Act of Congress before full and open trade can occur with the Republic of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Also, Governor Cuomo is in a unique position as Governor to persuade the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to open any shipping ports it controls; and

WHEREAS, For New York businesses to be competitive and win contracts for the sale of New York based agricultural, medical, and telecommunications products to the Republic of Cuba will require the State of New York to be price competitive with other states which have ports opened to ship permitted products to the Republic of Cuba; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

urge Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to advocate for the opening of the shipping ports controlled by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to encourage exports of United States products to the Republic of Cuba, and to urge the Commissioners on the Port Authority to begin exploring the opening of the shipping ports for authorized exports to the Republic of Cuba and conduct public hearings on its economic benefits to the State of New York and the northeast region of the United States; and be it further

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