

## 2015-J3022

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Onondaga Nation and Haudenosaunee Nation upon the occasion of being honored with hosting the 2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championships, from September 18 to September 27, 2015

WHEREAS, The Onondaga Nation is a member of the Haudenosaunee Nation, an alliance of native nations united for the past several hundred years by complementary traditions, beliefs and cultural values; and

WHEREAS, The Onondaga Nation survives today as a sovereign, independent nation, living on 7,300 acres of its ancestral territory in the County of Onondaga, just south of the City of Syracuse, where it maintains its own distinct laws, language, customs and culture, including the sport of lacrosse; and

WHEREAS, Lacrosse is one of the oldest team sports in North America and, according to Haudenosaunee tradition, was originally a sacred gift from the Creator, demanding those who play it have a purity of mind, body and spirit; and

WHEREAS, Lacrosse was quickly adopted by the early settlers in Upstate New York, spread across the colonies of the American Northeast and Canada, and is now recognized as the world's fastest growing team sport, with leagues in Europe, Japan, China, Turkey, and Singapore, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Lacrosse is played as an outdoor 'field' game and an indoor 'box' game, and world championships have arisen for both versions; and

WHEREAS, The Federation of International Lacrosse organizes the World Indoor Lacrosse Championships once every four years, and has selected the Haudenosaunee to be the host nation for the 2015 Games, the first time in the history of any sport that an Indigenous People has been selected as the host country; and

WHEREAS, The Onondaga Nation has accepted the honor of being the venue for these World Indoor Lacrosse Games, with a theme of "peace and friendship", and thus bringing to Central New York teams and fans from 13 nations: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Finland, Germany, the Haudenosaunee, Ireland, Israel, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA; and

WHEREAS, Onondaga County, Central New York and New York State have always welcomed individuals from around the world, and thus today proudly count as residents of their areas people from each of the competing nations, and thus is equally proud to count some of its young citizens as members of the teams from these competing nations; and

WHEREAS, International athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of those who compete in it as well as those who watch it, exposing all involved to the wonderful diversity of our world, the value of hard work, and the benefits of maintaining a standard of healthy living; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Onondaga Nation which has, by maintaining the tradition of lacrosse, by being ambassadors to the world and proponents for the virtues and standards expected of those playing the Creator's game, and by achieving outstanding individual and team success in youth, high school, college, professional and international lacrosse competition, have inspired and brought great pride to their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is hereby justly proud to congratulate the Onondaga Nation specifically and all of the members of the Haudenosaunee Nation generally for being selected to host the World Indoor Lacrosse Championships, which will be held September 18-27, 2015, at the

Onondaga County OnCenter War Memorial, the Onondaga Nation Arena and the Syracuse University Carrier Dome; and

WHEREAS, No Nation can succeed in performing such a task without the outstanding skill and talent of its citizens, and in an ever increasing-

ly global world without the assistance and cooperation of its neighbors;  
and

WHEREAS, Participation in international athletic competition instills in all the important values of teamwork, pride, and accomplishment, and the players, coaches, fans and organizers from the Haudenosaunee and from around the world involved with the 2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championships have clearly contributed to the pride of the City of Syracuse, the County of Onondaga, the region of Central New York and the State of New York community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Onondaga Nation and the Haudenosaunee Nation upon the occasion of being honored with hosting the 2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championships; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to representatives of the Onondaga Nation and Haudenosaunee Nation.