

## 2015-J6174

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Big Ditch Brewing Company upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the F.X. Matt Memorial Cup for Best Craft Brewery in New York State at the TAP NY Craft Beer Festival

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Big Ditch Brewing Company upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the F.X. Matt Memorial Cup for Best Craft Brewery in New York State at the TAP NY Craft Beer Festival held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, in Hunter Mountain, New York; and

WHEREAS, The TAP NY Craft Beer Festival is New York State's largest craft beer festival and food event; during its tasting competition, beer experts and guest judges rate brewers in a number of categories including "Best Beer" and "Best Brewery," and present such prestigious brewing awards as the Matthew Vassar Brewers' Cup, the F. X. Matt Memorial Cup and the Governors' Brewers Cup; and

WHEREAS, Big Ditch Brewing Company, a craft beer brewery located in downtown Buffalo, New York, was awarded the F.X. Matt Memorial Cup for Best Craft Brewery in recognition of its dedication to providing quality, delicious, and innovative craft beers to the people of Western New York and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Named after an early nickname for the Erie Canal, the historic waterway that forever altered the trajectory of the Buffalo area, Big Ditch Brewing Company was developed by founders Matt Kahn and Corey

Catalano, two aspiring scientists and beer lovers, who decided to start a new business in 2011 with the help of former brewery co-owner Wes Froebel and principal investor, Paul Iskalo; and

WHEREAS, Since opening in October of 2014, this esteemed local business has produced an outstanding variety of beers on site made from the best ingredients available, and crafted with just the right balance of art and science; its exceptional products can now be found at fine establishments throughout the Western New York Region; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 2015, Big Ditch Brewing Company opened their own Tap Room in a fantastic downtown setting, further contributing to the vitality of its local culinary scene by offering their innovative, flavorful and highly drinkable beers alongside the freshest food; and

WHEREAS, With a dedication to embodying the spirit of the men who built the Erie Canal, Big Ditch Brewing Company celebrates the roots of its community, and serves as a reminder that the future prosperity of Buffalo is being built with the same strength, pride and ambition which created this important waterway nearly two centuries ago; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Big Ditch Brewing Company; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional small business and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend its designation as recipient of the F.X. Matt Memorial Cup for Best Craft Brewery in New York State at the TAP NY Craft Beer Festival; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Matt Kahn, Corey Catalano, Wes Froebel, and Paul Iskalo, Big Ditch Brewing Company, Buffalo, New York.