

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-16-IC

SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

Offered by: the Inter-County Association of Western New York

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have, over the years, been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism Region, as designated by New York State legislation and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local government, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

1. The Inter-County Association of Western New York hereby supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area and supports the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area; and
2. The Inter-County Association of Western New York Secretary is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to state representatives and all others deemed necessary and appropriate.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 21st day of May 2021 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated May 21, 2021.

Jodi Adams



Jodi Adams, Secretary
Inter-County Association of Western New York

Sponsored by: Steuben County, Moved by: H. Lando (*Steuben*), Seconded by: B. Scotcher (*Steuben*)