

# Inter-County Association of Western New York

% Steuben County Legislature, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, New York 14810

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*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. 014-24

### SUPPORTING THE RURAL EQUITY INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE RURAL RESURGENCE.

**WHEREAS**, the counties that make up the Inter-County Association of Western New York are located in the beautiful expanse of Upstate New York's rural landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, the rural communities located within the counties of the Inter-County Association of Western New York honor their history and heritage while embracing innovation and looking toward the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York falls short in giving rural communities the attention and investment that is deserved; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York supports the Assembly Minority Rural Equity Initiative's focus on economic development and resurgence through the creation of the "Rural Equity Assistance Program" to foster economic development in small towns and communities (A.8136) and by incentivizing remote workers to live in rural areas of the State (A.9348); and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York applauds the ways the Rural Equity Initiative attempts to make rural communities whole by increasing Medicaid reimbursements for rural ambulance services (A.9353), by fleshing out telecommunication infrastructure by allowing municipalities to cooperatively develop regional internet access plans (A.4686) and by establishing the "Rural Mobile Communications Fund" to provide grants to increase cellular coverage in rural communities (A.8134); and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York affirms that rural students deserve access to a world-class education like more-resourced students and believes in the Rural Equity Initiative's efforts to enrich rural education by creating the "EmpowerEd" Act to allow students to enroll in classes within a region (A.8133) and allowing local schools to focus investments on education rather than chasing a hard-to-obtain zero-emission standard for school transportation (A.9183) and to enter into drive-sharing contracts with parents, teachers, and other community members (A.8135); and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York recognizes the Rural Equity Initiative's efforts to preserve the culture, history, and heritage of rural New York by creating the "Adopt-A-Rural Cemetery Program" to provide assistance to maintain and upgrade rural cemeteries (A.9422) and exempting the use of wood burning for recreation, building heating, and cooking from greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements (A.9743); and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York is committed to advocating for the needs of its residents and encourages any and all efforts to invest in and innovate rural New York.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York, representing 2.9 million citizens in the State of New York, urges the Governor and the State Legislature to pursue and adopt the legislation outlined in the Rural Equity Initiative so that Upstate New York can have a chance to thrive; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Honorable Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor; all members of the NYS Senate; all members of the NYS Assembly; and the New York State Association of Counties.

**STATE OF NEW YORK)**

ss.:

**COUNTY OF STEUBEN)**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution duly adopted by the Inter-County Association of Western New York while in session in Schuyler County on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

Dated: October 23, 2024  
Bath, New York



Amanda L. Chapman, Secretary  
Inter-County Association of Western New York