

Senate Resolution No. 1126

BY: Senator METZGER

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the launching of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Pete Seeger, co-founder of the Hudson River Sloop Restoration in 1966

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the launching of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Pete Seeger, co-founder of the Hudson River Sloop Restoration in 1966; and

WHEREAS, The 100th Anniversary of the birth of Beacon resident, world-renowned folk singer/songwriter and environmental activist Pete Seeger falls on May 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Pete and Toshi Seeger co-founded the Hudson River Sloop Restoration in 1966, which built the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater that was launched on May 17, 1969, with a mission to preserve and protect the Hudson River, its tributaries and related bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, Pete Seeger and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater helped turn the tide in favor of enacting the 1972 Clean Water Act by sailing the Clearwater to Washington, D.C. in April of 1970, and organizing an historic Capitol Hill forum on the need for federal clean water protections; and

WHEREAS, From 1969 to 1974, Clearwater engaged in landmark work on the Clean Water Act, to protect American waterways from polluting discharges; and

WHEREAS, The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater has provided innovative environmental education programs beginning in 1970 with its on-board education program "Classroom of the Waves"; each year, thousands of school children participate in learning about local history, navigation, ecology, natural history and citizen action which has been supplemented since 1980 by on-land education programs; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the landmark document: Hudson River Angler Survey: A report on the adherence to fish consumption health advisories among Hudson River anglers, investigated and authored by Bridget Barclay, Clearwater's Environmental Action Director, became an important turning point in Hudson River PCB Superfund site case by showing the nexus

between PCB contamination of Hudson River water and sediment and human health by actively demonstrating that humans were unaware of and/or ignoring health advisories and consuming PCB-containing fish; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, the Hudson was named an "American Heritage River" by President Bill Clinton, and in 2002, Pete Seeger was named a "Clean Water Hero" by the Clean Water Network for his prominent efforts in the passage of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Clearwater was added to the National Historic Register for its historical role in "articulating, publicizing, and defining the American environmental movement, as well as for directly fighting in some of the nation's most important environmental conflicts"; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, as part of Clearwater's Green Cities program, Clearwater undertook a groundbreaking Community-Based Environmental Justice Inventory for the City of Peekskill, identifying major sources of pollution, disparate impacts on vulnerable populations and offered a range of suggested solutions; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Clearwater began a Climate Justice initiative in four Hudson Valley cities to assess potential environmental, economic, public health, and safety impacts of climate change on communities of color and low income in Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Beacon, and Peekskill, each of which have waterfronts vulnerable to sea-level rise along their shorelines; and

WHEREAS, As an organization, Clearwater has worked on the state and federal level for stronger environmental laws and tougher enforcement for 50 years; in addition, it has been at the forefront of the environmental movement as champion of the Hudson River, working to pass landmark legislation, resulting in the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implementing pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry and developing national water quality criteria recommendations for pollutants in surface waters; and

WHEREAS, Clearwater has created and fostered environmental advocacy programs, and musical celebrations, including the renowned annual Clearwater Festival, to inspire, educate, and expand people's experience, awareness and stewardship of this magnificent natural resource; and

WHEREAS, The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater was designed to and continues to keep alive an important era of New York State history, reminding us of the days when commerce, recreation and travel centered along the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, Pete Seeger's legacy lives on through education programs, advocacy work and special events like the Great Hudson River Revival, and the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as one of New York State's most effective, visible and beautiful sailing vessels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the launching of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Pete Seeger; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pauses further to applaud and commend the contributions of Clearwater in its untiring work to preserve the Hudson River and its watershed for future generations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., Beacon, New York.