

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE MAJORITY CAUCUS**RE: Condemning President Donald Trump's Proposed Tariffs on European Wine and Alcohol and Calling on Representative Nick Langworthy and the Western New York Congressional Delegation to Oppose These Policies**

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has proposed a 200% tariff on European wine, Champagne, and spirits in response to European Union tariffs on American whiskey; and

WHEREAS, these proposed tariffs would have a devastating effect on small businesses throughout Western New York that depend on European wine and spirits imports, including bars, restaurants, and specialty retailers; and

WHEREAS, Alchemy Wine and Beer, a woman-owned business in Hamburg, has publicly stated that these tariffs could force them to raise prices to unsustainable levels, threatening their ability to remain in operation; and

WHEREAS, businesses across Erie County and Western New York rely on imported European wines and spirits, with many small and independent establishments facing financial ruin if the cost of their products triples; and

WHEREAS, the United States alcohol industry as a whole relies on European imports, with wine and spirits from the European Union making up 17% of total U.S. alcohol consumption in 2023; and

WHEREAS, importers and retailers in Western New York and beyond warn that a 200% tariff would effectively shut down the European wine business in the United States, causing massive disruptions to the market and harming American jobs in distribution, sales, and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Representative Nick Langworthy, who represents much of Erie County in Congress, has a duty to stand up for Western New York businesses against harmful trade policies that put local jobs at risk; and

WHEREAS, past tariff disputes, such as China's 218% tariffs on Australian wine, have shown that such extreme trade policies cause irreparable harm to businesses and economies; and

WHEREAS, rather than helping American wineries, these tariffs would create uncertainty and financial distress throughout the industry, as there is not enough U.S. wine production to replace European imports in the short term; and

WHEREAS, businesses in Erie County, including wine shops, restaurants, and importers, are already experiencing uncertainty and economic disruption due to these threats, with some halting purchases of European wine due to the unclear future of pricing and availability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature's Majority Caucus strongly condemns President Donald Trump's proposed 200% tariffs on European wine and spirits as reckless, damaging to small businesses, and harmful to the Western New York economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature urges United States Representatives Nick Langworthy and Tim Kennedy to publicly oppose these tariffs and work to prevent their implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to U.S. Representative Nick Langworthy, U.S. Representative Tim Kennedy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and President Donald Trump.