

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE MAJORITY CAUCUS

RE: Condemning the Trump administration and Republican trade policies for their harmful impact on Western New York's craft brewery industry.

WHEREAS, the history of beer brewing in Buffalo dates back more than 200 years, with deep connections to the region's industrial past, and the craft beer industry in Western New York has seen tremendous growth over the past decade, contributing significantly to the local economy, creating jobs, and fostering a vibrant community of entrepreneurs and craft brewers; and

WHEREAS, brewery owners across Western New York have innovated and expanded, adding food service, event spaces, and new product lines to adapt to shifting market conditions

WHEREAS, according to the Brewers Association, Erie County alone has added 17 new craft breweries since 2016, with more than 40 breweries now operating in the Buffalo Niagara region, contributing an estimated \$195 million annually to the local economy, employing more than 650 professionals; and

WHEREAS, 10% of all visitors to the Buffalo Niagara region travel to experience local craft beer, a rate that exceeds the national average and underscores the industry's importance to local hospitality and tourism; and

WHEREAS, craft brewing in New York State generated a \$4.3 billion economic impact in 2019, with Western New York breweries playing a vital role in attracting tourism, sustaining small businesses, and employing more than 650 professionals in the brewing industry; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of tariffs on imported aluminum and steel by the Trump administration significantly increased the cost of production for breweries, driving up prices for essential materials such as aluminum cans and brewing equipment, thereby placing an undue financial burden on small and independent brewers; and

WHEREAS, national and local business organizations, including the Brewers Association, the Western New York Brewers Guild, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have criticized these tariffs for their negative impact on American manufacturing, small businesses, and the broader economy; and

WHEREAS, President Trump and his congressional allies, despite warnings from economists and industry experts, pushed forward with reckless trade policies that disrupted supply chains, raised costs on American businesses, and put thousands of jobs at risk in communities like Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the tariffs disproportionately harmed small and independent craft breweries, which lack the financial flexibility of larger beer conglomerates to absorb increased costs, forcing some businesses to raise prices, reduce staff, or close altogether; and

WHEREAS, the Majority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature stands in support of local breweries, small businesses, and entrepreneurs who drive economic growth and cultural vitality in Western New York; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature condemns the trade policies of the Trump administration and congressional Republicans that have harmed Western New York's craft brewery industry, particularly the tariffs on aluminum and steel that have driven up production costs and threatened the survival of local breweries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Legislature calls upon Congress to take further steps to support small breweries by removing burdensome tariffs, investing in small business relief programs, and enacting policies that promote the continued growth of the craft beer industry; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature reaffirms its commitment to supporting Western New York's breweries and small businesses, recognizing their vital role in our economy, culture, and community, and will continue to advocate for fair economic policies that benefit hardworking entrepreneurs rather than burden them with unnecessary financial hardship.