

**Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_-2016**

**Resolution Urging Governor Cuomo to Sign Bills A9925/S6249 to Establish a New York State Geothermal Tax Credit**

WHEREAS, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is urgently needed to avoid catastrophic climate change, calling for government policies to reduce energy consumption and spur the transition to renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, space and domestic-hot-water heating comprises 75% of residential home energy use; and

WHEREAS, geothermal energy systems are well tested, extremely effective, but underutilized, home space-conditioning technologies that are 3- to 5-times more efficient than conventional home heating methods, have very low operational costs, are long-lived, and provide a comfortable indoor climate year-round by virtue of heating, cooling, and dehumidification functions; and

WHEREAS, geothermal heating/cooling systems are broadly applicable, offering the potential to reduce energy demand, especially during the extremes of hot and cold, contributing to grid efficiencies, consistent with the goals of New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV); and

WHEREAS, tax credits and rebates create opportunities for citizens to transition away from fossil-fuel use and support the growth of renewable energy sector jobs; and

WHEREAS, a 25% New York State tax credit has effectively spurred the adoption of solar PV and hot water systems, locally by the successful Solarize Tompkins Southeast and Solar Tompkins solarize programs; and

WHEREAS, the 30% federal tax credit was instrumental in Solar Tompkins' HeatSmart I Program that educated and facilitated home envelope improvements and purchase and installation of geothermal and air-sourced heat pumps; and

WHEREAS, the 30% federal tax credit for geothermal energy systems expires on December 31, 2016, due to an inadvertent omission from the federal tax credits extension bill; and

WHEREAS, HeatSmart II will promote geothermal adoption in the Tompkins County region beginning in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the New York State legislature has overwhelmingly passed bills (A9925/S6249) for a 25% tax credit up to a \$5,000 cap for purchase and installation of geothermal energy systems; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board urges governor Cuomo to sign bills A9925 and S6249 in order to establish a 25% New York State tax credit for the purchase and installation of geothermal systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to NYS Senator James Seward, NYS Representative Barbara Lifton, US Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, US Representative Tom Reed, and President Barack Obama.