

1 **NYSAC 2021 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Energy**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution in Support of Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention**
5 **and Mitigation**

6 **WHEREAS**, harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxic events (severe oxygen
7 depletion) are some of the most scientifically complex and economically damaging
8 issues challenging our ability to safeguard the health of our nation's aquatic ecosystems;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, almost every state in the union now experiences some type of a type of
11 HAB event, and the number of hypoxic water bodies in the U.S. has increased 30-fold
12 since the 1960s, with over 300 aquatic life systems now impacted; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Congress has long recognized the severity of these threats, authorizing the
14 Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) in 1998 and
15 reaffirming and expanding the mandate for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
16 Administration (NOAA) to advance the scientific understanding and ability to detect,
17 monitor, assess, and predict HAB and hypoxia events with the HABHRCA Amendments
18 Act of 2004; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Congress most recently reauthorized HABHRCA through the National
20 Integrated Drought Information System in 2018; and

21 **WHEREAS**, a 2006 study shows that the economic impacts from a subset of HAB
22 events in U.S. marine waters averaged to be \$82 million/year (2005 dollars), and we
23 now know the nationwide economic impact of HABs to be much larger, as just one
24 major HAB event can cost local economies tens of millions of dollars; and

25 **WHEREAS**, a host of recent university and agency studies are developing an
26 understanding of acute and chronic human health considerations associated with
27 harmful algal blooms.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
29 Counties (NYSAC) supports the renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia
30 Research and Control Act and encourages the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
31 to collaborate with NOAA to identify nutrient reduction strategies and scalable Harmful
32 Algal Bloom mitigation processes; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
34 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State Association of Counties shall
2 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State
3 Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.