

1 **2022 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture & Rural Affairs**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the New York State to Commence an Investigation**
6 **into the Closure of Bank Branches in Rural Counties in New York State**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, bank branches in rural counties provide consumers with a financial
9 institution where they can make deposit or withdrawal transactions to their accounts,
10 take out a loan, select a mortgage lender, dispute a fee on their accounts, and perform
11 other in-person financial transactions; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the presence of bank branches in rural counties also provides an
14 important source of financial advice, civic leadership, and a more personal touch by
15 their financial service providers; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, counties across the country and throughout New York State have been
18 deeply affected by the steady trend of bank branch closures, which disproportionately
19 affects rural counties; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, while a growing number of consumers with bank accounts are adopting
22 online and mobile banking for the primary function of checking their balances in their
23 accounts, bank branches in rural counties continue to be a necessity for consumers,
24 especially for deposit and withdrawal transactions, and for resolving problems with
25 their accounts; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, while improvements in technology and remote access have helped some
28 consumers access online and mobile banking services, many rural counties are unable to
29 provide their consumers access to broadband internet and cellular phone service that is
30 sufficient, reliable, or affordable, creating a roadblock to banking activities; and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, although non-bank financial service providers are filling critical service
33 gaps provided by bank branches, they are not meeting all the needs, or are doing so at a
34 higher cost to the consumers; and

35
36 **WHEREAS**, small business owners, seniors, and those lacking consistent and reliable
37 transportation are most negatively affected by bank branch closures; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, the elimination of bank branches in rural counties is a loss to the affected
40 communities' financial and civic leadership; and

41
42 **WHEREAS**, adjusting to the loss of a local bank branch can be frustrating and
43 disruptive to the affected communities and their consumers; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the closure of local bank branches each year in rural communities is an
2 ongoing issue, and there is no reason to believe that this trend will dissipate without
3 appropriate intervention; and

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the counties are gravely concerned that the closure of additional local
6 bank branches will place communities and their consumers in a state of hardship if New
7 York State does not commence an investigation into this crisis.

8
9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
10 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to
11 investigate the closure of bank branches in rural counties in New York State; and

12
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
14 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

15
16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
17 the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, the
18 Commissioner of the Department of Financial Services, and all others deemed necessary
19 and proper.