

April 8, 2014

**RESOLUTION NO. 48-14**

**REQUESTING ELECTED OFFICIALS TO HELP ADDRESS GROWING CONCERN WITH LIMITED ACCESS OF CANAL BRIDGES IN ORLEANS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, there is growing concern of the continued limited access of canal bridges in Orleans County as a result of several bridges being closed over the Erie Canal or having had the weight restrictions significantly lowered; and

WHEREAS, currently the Brown Street Bridge over the Erie Canal in the Village of Albion was closed by NYS Department of Transportation on July 19, 2012 due to safety concerns identified during an annual bridge inspection; and

WHEREAS, with these limitations, Orleans County is extremely concerned with the ability of emergency servicing vehicles getting across the Erie Canal to an emergency under a very critical time frame to save lives; and

WHEREAS, Orleans County has seen serious restrictions in the movement of farm equipment and implements over the canal, having no other options but to drive through our busy villages or forced to drive long distances to access their land impacting our agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, Orleans County has also seen the closed bridges, or weight reductions significantly hinder commercial vehicles within our County, causing them to travel extensive miles to pass over the Erie Canal on a bridge that allows their weight limit; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce calls upon our elected officials to help address our growing concern of limited access of canal bridges in Orleans County, even neighboring counties across New York State by the New York State Canal Corporation and the New York State Department of Transportation hindering vital transportation through and about our county; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce forward this resolution to Governor Cuomo, Senator George Maziarz, Assemblyman Steve Hawley, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Canal Corporation, New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, New York Farm Bureau, Orleans County Farm Bureau, Orleans County Fire Departments and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Moved: Brook Pontillo; seconded, Mark Merithew  
Adopted. 7 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent