

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR GRANT & MAZUR**

**RE: Assessing the Need for a Regional Approach to Increase Access to Locally Grown, Processed and Produced “Farm to Table” Food in Erie County**

WHEREAS, public discussion regarding issues including, but not limited to, farmland protection, “freedom to farm”, land use, expanding farmers’ access to new and growing markets, particularly in urban areas, continue to matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS, the designation by the United Nations of the Year 2012 as the International Year of the Cooperatives makes this an ideal time to address the growing, positive impact cooperatives have had on our community and what role they could play in increasing the community’s access to “farm to table” food, particularly in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, among the economic benefits of a well-functioning regional plan is the facilitation of direct marketing partnerships between food producers and consumers;

WHEREAS, increasing access to locally-produced, fresh farm products can bridge the perceived gap between urban and rural concerns and can help small and medium-sized farms stay in business.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature request the Commissioner of the Department of Environment & Planning attend a future informational meeting under the auspices of both the Health & Human Services Committee and the Energy & Environment Committee to discuss the “farm to table” movement and the actions being taken to increase the access of Erie County’s farmers to untapped markets in Erie County; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Environment & Planning and all others deemed necessary and proper.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None for resolution.