

**Supporting The U.S. Department Of State's Position On Events In Tibet**

The Environmental Committee (Chairman Shapiro and Legislators Bischoff, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Fabiano, Petit and Roberts) offers the following:

WHEREAS, Tibetans have experienced discrimination, persecution, resettlement, imprisonment and torture for their beliefs during half a century of Chinese rule, leading to recent protests in Lhasa, Tibet and elsewhere, and

WHEREAS, the Tibetan Policy Act (H.R. 1646), was signed into law by President George W. Bush on September 30, 2002, with the intent of helping Tibetans safeguard their national identity, and

WHEREAS, the Tibetan Policy Act states that "it is the policy of the United States to support economic development, cultural preservation, health care, and education and environmental sustainability for Tibetans inside Tibet", and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State's central objective on the Tibet situation is to "promote substantive dialogue between the government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives", and

WHEREAS, world leaders in Europe, Asia and elsewhere have also called for peaceful and substantive dialogue between Beijing and the Tibetan leadership to end ongoing unrest in the region, and

WHEREAS, H.H. the Dalai Lama has stated, "These protests are a manifestation of the deep-rooted resentment of the Tibetan people under the present governance. I therefore appeal to the Chinese leadership to stop using force and address the long-simmering resentment of the Tibetan people through dialogue with the Tibetan people", and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature supports the U.S. Department of State's call for "the Chinese government to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama directly and through his representatives so that long-standing issues with regard to Tibet may be resolved" and for "China to address policies in Tibetan areas that have created tensions due to their impact on Tibetan religion, culture, and livelihoods", and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be forwarded to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, Consul General Peng Keyu - Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in New York, Mr. Tashi Wangdi - Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama to the Americas, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and U.S. Congressman Maurice Hinchey,

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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19                      NOES: 11  
(NOES: Legislators Cummings, Fabiano,  
Felicello, Hansut, Harris, Maloney, Noonan, Petit,  
Roberts, Ronk and Terrizzi)  
(Absent: Legislators Donaldson, Gerentine and  
Kraft)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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