

Nominates Jim Farr Who Slaughter Says "truly embodies the spirit of this region"

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that she has nominated James Farr to be the newest member of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission, a federal commission that works with communities along the Erie Canal to celebrate and promote the heritage of the Erie Canal.

Farr is a long-time public servant and advocate for the historical significance and economic benefits that come with preserving our region's unique history. He currently serves as the Assistant Director for Recreation for the City of Rochester where he oversees City's environmental and horticultural education programs and parks stewardship. His work to expand the Rochester Public Market was recently recognized when the market was voted America's Favorite Farmers Market in a contest sponsored by the American Farmland Trust. Farr has served as a committee member of the World Canal Conferences held in Rochester.

"The Erie Canal was one of the most significant factors in the building of Upstate New York and its heritage should be celebrated. I know that Jim shares this vision which is why I am so pleased to strongly recommend him for this position," said Slaughter. "Jim truly embodies the spirit of this region. His decades of work to promote the historical significance and economic potential of the Canal are unmatched and I am hopeful that Jim will be afforded an even greater opportunity to share his expertise."

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission is a 27-member, community-based federal commission appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that works with 234 communities along the Erie Canal route. They meet quarterly to plan and direct activities that preserve and celebrate the historical, natural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

"The Erie Canal was the catalyst spurred the rapid settlement and development of western New York in the 1800's, over 150 years later it remains an important economic and recreational resource thanks in large part to the efforts of the Erie Canalway Corridor National Heritage Commission. I'm honored and excited to be nominated to be a member of the Commission and look forward to helping to shape the future of this historic waterway," said Jim Farr.

Farr's appointment is pursuant to approval of the Secretary, National Park's Service Office of Policy and White House Appointments Office. Farr would be appointed to a three year renewable term.

A copy of her letter to Secretary Salazar is included below.

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar

United States Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, District of Columbia 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

I am pleased to write to you to nominate, James "Jim" Farr, to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission. As you know, the federal legislation that created the Erie

Canalway National Heritage Corridor (Public Law 106-554, Title VIII; December 21, 2000) provides for a single nomination to the Corridor's Commission for each Representative whose district includes the Corridor. As Secretary of the Interior and the appointing official, I respectfully request your consideration of appointing Jim Farr to the Commission as the representative for New York's 28th Congressional District.

The 28th Congressional District of New York is situated in the beautiful and historic Erie Canalway Corridor. A symbol of American ingenuity and perseverance, the Erie Canal stretches over 360 miles across the state of New York. The Erie Canalway Corridor serves as a rich economic resource for tourism, cultural exchange, recreation, education and commercial shipping.

Jim's passion for this great area of New York has been evident for over 30 years. He is a 34 year employee of the City of Rochester; currently serving as Assistant Director for Recreation. In this role, he has responsibility for the City's environmental and horticultural education programs and parks stewardship as well as the oversight of the Rochester Public Market. Guided by Jim's expertise, the Rochester Public Market has expanded and become a major regional attraction that connects local growers with area residents. Recently Jim's efforts were recognized when the market was voted America's Favorite Farmers Market in a contest sponsored by the American Farmland Trust.

Jim has represented the City as a committee member on both of the World Canal Conferences held in Rochester and has also assisted with and attended a number of the Canal Society of New York Conferences and events. Jim truly embodies the spirit of this region.

An example of Jim's creativity and dedication to the area is his close work with Parks and Trails New York to coordinate the annual "Cycle the Erie" bike tour which showcases the Canalway's heritage. Also, Jim is currently a Board member of the Genesee WaterWays Center. He is the former President and a current Foundation member of Monroe County Cooperative Extension. Jim serves as a member of many other relative boards and organizations. They include: the Monroe County Parks Advisory Committee, the Ontario Beach Park Program Committee, the Farmers Market Federation of New York and the National Association of Produce Market Managers and the World Union of Markets. Jim is also the secretary and one of the founding board members of the Tony Jordan Youth Sports Foundation.

I am so pleased to strongly recommend James Farr to the Erie Canalway National Heritage

Corridor Commission. Secretary Salazar, I respectfully request your consideration of his appointment to the prestigious Commission which has a great impact in the State of New York. If you should require additional information from me, please contact me at my Rochester District Office at (585) 232-4850.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

Member of Congress