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EXTENSION OF REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

April 29, 2015

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Jersey State League of Municipalities on its 100th anniversary this year. This incredible milestone and the League's efforts to support New Jersey's local governments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Born out of the need for a statewide alliance supporting and representing the common interests of local governments, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities was conceived and formally authorized by state statute Chapter 163, Laws of 1915. Trenton Mayor Frederick W. Donnelly served as the League's first president, along with three vice presidents, a 14-member executive committee (now known as the executive board) and an executive secretary (known today as the executive director). Over the years, the organization's structure has remained the same. In its 100th year, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler serves as League President.

Evidence of its success, the League has grown immensely since its formation. Begun with 51 charter member municipalities, today the voluntary association boasts a membership of all 565 of New Jersey's municipalities, representing more than 560 mayors and 13,000 elected and appointed officials. Its headquarters, moved from

Princeton to Trenton in 1921, continued to expand and was housed in several buildings before settling in its current location in 2007. For 100 years, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities has evolved and grown to meet the changing, complex needs of local government.

Through its legislative activity, the League continues to be the leading voice on municipal affairs and an effective advocate on behalf of New Jersey's communities. Its services, programs and resources, particularly its annual conference and monthly magazine, are invaluable resources to local officials, providing outlets to share issues, solutions and ideas. Throughout its history, the League has successfully fought for greater local autonomy, improved local governance and the protection of municipal rights. Its achievements and influence are immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the New Jersey State League of Municipalities as it celebrates 100 years of local government collaboration. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities continues to represent a commitment to good government.