

**No. R-239. House concurrent resolution thanking the employees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their role in safeguarding our State's and nation's environmental quality.**

(H.195)

Offered by: Representatives Deen of Westminster, Sullivan of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bock of Chester, Briglin of Thetford, Brumsted of Shelburne, Christensen of Weathersfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Colchester, Dunn of Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Fields of Bennington, Gardner of Richmond, Hooper of Montpelier, Houghton of Essex, Jessup of Middlesex, Joseph of North Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lippert of Hinesburg, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Townsend of South Burlington, Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established on December 2, 1970 as the result of President Nixon's signing federal Reorganization Plan No. 3, and

Whereas, the EPA's mission "is to protect human health and the environment," and

Whereas, the EPA implements its mandate through the development and enforcement of regulations, the awarding of grants, studying environmental issues, sponsoring partnerships, teaching people about the environment, and publishing information for the general public, and

Whereas, the EPA requires improved drinking water quality through elimination of lead, safe private wells, and protective measures applied to drinking water sources; addresses wastewater issues with grants for the construction of wastewater treatment, septic systems, and the financing of green storm management programs and facilities; monitors and prevents water pollution with programs related to hydraulic fracturing, pollution runoff, controlling pollutant discharge into waters, including stormwater pollution, and nutrient pollution; and engages in programs focusing on water research, water resilience, and the protection of bodies of water, including lakes, oceans, and associated coasts and wetlands, rivers and streams, and watersheds, including invasive species, and

Whereas, the EPA's extensive air pollution eradication programs focus on outdoor air pollution (acid rain, ozone layer protection, and visibility); indoor air quality (asbestos, mold, radon, wood-burning appliances); the problems associated with air pollutants (carbon monoxide, ground level ozone, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide); and the continuing problem of greenhouse gas emissions, and

Whereas, another important EPA role is related to the assessment and cleanup of Brownfields, and in fiscal year 2017, \$56.8 million of Brownfield grant funding includes \$300,000.00 for assessment projects in Bennington County and \$200,000.00 each for site cleanups at the Brattleboro Museum and at the former Robertson Paper Mill in Bellows Falls, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly thanks the employees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their role in safeguarding our State's and nation's environmental quality, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and to the Office of the Region 1 EPA Administrator.