

NO. R-79. SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ENERGIZER IN BENNINGTON ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD'S FIRST MERCURY-FREE HEARING AID BATTERY AND ON THE COMPANY'S RECEIPT OF A GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON HEALTHY AGING AWARD.

(S.C.R.9)

By Senators Sears, Hartwell and Lyons,

By Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Krawczyk of Bennington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington and Morrissey of Bennington,

Whereas, beginning in 2005, Energizer in Bennington worked with scientists, both at the University of Vermont and Norwich University, to develop a mercury-free button cell battery for use in hearing aids and established a six-year timetable for completing this project, and

Whereas, in the interim, the battery industry set a target date of June 2011 for the introduction of mercury-free button cell batteries for hearing aid consumers, and

Whereas, in August 2008, ahead of its own and the industry's schedules, Energizer proudly began the marketing of the first-in-the-world mercury-free button cell battery, and

Whereas, this new mercury-free button cell battery will be far less harmful to the environment, and Energizer's commitment to an accelerated development and marketing schedule was an example of a corporate citizen responding affirmatively and effectively to a serious but resolvable environmental problem, and

Whereas, when the batteries were ready for sale to the public, Energizer donated \$5,000.00 worth of these new mercury-free batteries to Bennington Project Independence which operates an adult day care and health rehabilitation service, and

Whereas, in recognition of both its commitment to the development of a new mercury-free button cell battery and its donation of batteries to Bennington Project Independence, the Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging presented a Benefactor's Award to Energizer in Bennington, and

Whereas, this new category of commission award recognizes achievements not associated with the commission's other award categories, and

Whereas, Governor Douglas presented the Benefactor's Award to Energizer as part of the commission's annual state house awards ceremony that was held on October 28, 2008, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Energizer in Bennington on the development of the world's first mercury-free hearing aid battery and on the company's receipt of a Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging Benefactor's Award, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Energizer General Manager of Specialty Batteries Stephen Hockbridge and to John Hall, manager of the company's Bennington plant.