

No. R-123. House concurrent resolution congratulating transportation district 7 on earning VOSHA's Green Mountain Voluntary Protection Program's Star certification.

(H.C.R.90)

Offered by: Representatives Peaslee of Guildhall, Johnson of Canaan, Aswad of Burlington, Audette of South Burlington, Brennan of Colchester, Burke of Brattleboro, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Higley of Lowell, Howrigan of Fairfield, Kilmartin of Newport City, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Derby, Marcotte of Coventry, Morley of Barton, Potter of Clarendon, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Rodgers of Glover, South of St. Johnsbury, Toll of Danville, Westman of Cambridge and Wheeler of Derby

Offered by: Senators Choate, Illuzzi, Kitchel, Maynard, Mazza, Scott, Shumlin and Starr

Whereas, VOSHA is the Vermont department of labor's occupational safety and health compliance program, and the highest honor this program can bestow on a public or private sector organization is its Voluntary Protection Program's Star certification, and

Whereas, for an organization to earn this certification, it must submit to a rigorous and lengthy examination of all aspects of its operations with respect to health and safety practices, and

Whereas, beginning in 2006, as the first steps toward the much-coveted VOSHA Star certification, workers in Vermont agency of transportation

district 7, which consists of Caledonia, and parts of Essex and Orange Counties and is based in St. Johnsbury, began a collaborative process with VOSHA and completed a comprehensive application, and

Whereas, every safety policy in the district was assessed and, where necessary, revisions were implemented, and

Whereas, the district's employees formed safety component teams and enhanced current safety trainings and, where necessary, developed new ones, and

Whereas, after all the preliminary work was completed, the district participated in an extremely intensive four-day VOSHA on-site evaluation that entailed inspections, observations, and random employee interviews, and

Whereas, once VOSHA thoroughly evaluated the results of the four-day site visit, the long-awaited moment arrived when Star certification was officially bestowed on district 7, and

Whereas, according to Dan Whipple, evaluation team leader for VOSHA, "District 7 is the first organization of its kind in New England, and likely in the United States" to earn this distinguished honor, and

Whereas, Star certification translates into direct benefits for district 7 workers, including much-improved morale, a safer workplace, better team building, an improved standard of care for both the facility and equipment, fewer accidents and corresponding lower workers' compensation claims and

premiums, exemptions from certain inspection requirements, and an improved working relationship with VOSHA, and

Whereas, Transportation Manager Dale Peron and the 54 other district 7 employees are to be commended for their determination and perseverance in facilitating district 7's successful quest for Star certification, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont Agency of Transportation District 7 and all of its employees on the notable achievement of earning VOSHA's Voluntary Protection Program's Star certification, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dale Perron at district 7 headquarters in St. Johnsbury and to Secretary of Transportation David Dill in Montpelier.