

No. R-136. House concurrent resolution commending the leadership of Green Mountain Power Corporation and other electric companies and state offices in restoring electric power in southern Vermont following the December 2008 ice storm.

(H.C.R.89)

Offered by: Representatives Cheney of Norwich, Adams of Hartland, Clerkin of Hartford, Deen of Westminster, Edwards of Brattleboro, Emmons of Springfield, Krawczyk of Bennington, Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, Obuchowski of Rockingham, Partridge of Windham and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, Nitka, Shumlin and White

Whereas, on December 11, 2008, a vicious winter storm struck Bennington, Windham, and Windsor counties with such force that Governor Douglas issued a state disaster for those jurisdictions, and

Whereas, fallen trees and the accumulation of ice on power lines and poles caused more than 27,000 Green Mountain Power (GMP) customers to lose electrical service, and

Whereas, virtually all of GMP's 192 employees responded to the outages as quickly as possible, and

Whereas, due to the extent of the damage caused to electric lines, poles, and other facilities, additional equipment and personnel beyond the resources of GMP were necessary to respond to the outages, and

Whereas, other Vermont electric utilities and their subcontractors provided invaluable assistance in this major power restoration effort, and

Whereas, road crews in the towns of Dover, Hartford, Norwich, Putney, Readsboro, Rockingham, Westminster, Wilmington, and the village of

Jacksonville, who sanded the local roads voluntarily in order that electric power crews could access the areas without electricity, were extremely supportive of GMP's work, and

Whereas, local fire and police departments in all the affected communities helped GMP in keeping residents safe in places where trees and debris blocked the roadway, and

Whereas, the electric power crews from GMP and other companies were on the job for many consecutive hours, and a number of restaurants, including AJs, The Anchor Restaurant, Athens Pizza, Crossroads, Dot's, Dot's Too, Fathers Restaurant, Harrimans, Horizon Inn, Hunter's, Putney Diner, The Putney Inn, 99 Restaurant, TC's, TJs, and The Vermont House, provided them with essential nourishment, and

Whereas, a number of businesses provided needed materials and services to GMP, including Deerfield Valley Ace Hardware, CED Twinstate in Wilder, Nido's Fuel station, and Wilmington Tru Value, and

Whereas, weary GMP and supporting electric crews were able to catch much-needed sleep at a number of hotels and motels, including Best Western Bennington, Comfort Inn White River Junction, The Grand Summit at Mount Snow, Holiday Inn Express, The Horizon Inn, The Inn at Mount Snow, The Putney Inn, the Red Roof Inn Brattleboro, and Shearer Hill Farm, and

Whereas, the department of public service and Vermont emergency management each gave invaluable assistance to GMP, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commends the outstanding leadership of the Green Mountain Power Corporation, the excellent work of the supporting electric power companies, and all of the public and private sector organizations that can be proud of their roles in assisting the power restoration process following the 2008 ice storm, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Green Mountain Power Corporation President and CEO Mary G. Powell in Colchester.