

No. R-353. House concurrent resolution honoring the towns and citizens of Dover, Whitingham, and Wilmington for their creativity in establishing a mutually beneficial economic development model that other communities can adopt.

(H.C.R.255)

Offered by: Representatives Moran of Wardsboro and Manwaring of Wilmington

Offered by: Senators Hartwell, Sears, Shumlin and White

Whereas, in the winter of 2006–2007, the Deerfield Valley, a tourism-dependent area, suffered devastating economic losses from lack of snow and unseasonably warm weather, and

Whereas, in February 2007, the towns of Dover, Whitingham, and Wilmington, the Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from the lodging, recreation, and dining industries explained to legislators and state agencies the severe economic losses sustained in the Deerfield Valley, and

Whereas, in the spring of 2007, the adversely affected towns and businesses, recognizing that true change must be locally initiated and cooperatively developed, created a committee to address mutual concerns named the Dover-Whitingham-Wilmington Tri-Town Economic Development Committee, and

Whereas, by the end of 2007, short- and long-term economic development plans, consisting of both tourism and nontourism-related components, were presented to each of the three towns' selectboards for support, and

Whereas, at 2008 town meeting in Dover, Whitingham, and Wilmington voters approved their respective town's implementation of this economic development plan, and

Whereas, in the summer and fall of 2008, lupines were planted along VT Routes 9, 100, and 112 to symbolize the towns' unified efforts, a multi-town calendar and uniform wifi signage were organized, and four well-attended public forums facilitated community discussions relating to economic development, and

Whereas, at 2009 town meeting, the three towns' voters approved a short-term planning budget to continue beautification efforts and other immediate projects, and simultaneously, Dover's and Wilmington's voters approved hiring a consultant to create a plan that would create long-term and sustainable economic development to affect positively the economy and overall quality of life in the Deerfield Valley, and

Whereas, residents of the valley, in collaboration with consultants Mullin & Associates, created an economic development plan which the Dover and Wilmington selectboards approved in November, 2009, and

Whereas, the achievements of the Tri-Town Economic Development Committee have a positive impact on the Deerfield Valley, and they provide a community-based economic development model that reflects the entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic of all Vermonters, and can be applied in other towns, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the towns and citizens of Dover, Whitingham, and Wilmington for their creativity in establishing a mutually beneficial economic development model that other communities can adopt, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the selectboards of Dover, Whitingham, and Wilmington.