

**No. R-472. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps on its 25th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.342)

Offered by: Representatives O'Brien of Richmond, Adams of Hartland, Ainsworth of Royalton, Aswad of Burlington, Baker of West Rutland, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Consejo of Sheldon, Courcelle of Rutland City, Davis of Washington, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Keenan of St. Albans City, Komline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lenes of Shelburne, Lewis of Derby, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, McAllister of Highgate, McDonald of Berlin, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, Nuovo of Middlebury, Pearce of Richford, Peltz of Woodbury, Perley of Enosburg, Potter of Clarendon, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Rodgers of Glover, Savage of Swanton, Shand of Weathersfield, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of Mendon, South of St. Johnsbury, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Wilson of Manchester, Winters of Williamstown, Wizowaty of Burlington, Young of St. Albans City and Zenie of Colchester

Whereas, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) was founded in 1985 with an appropriation of one dollar as an experimental public-private venture, and

Whereas, the mission of the VYCC is “to teach individuals to take personal responsibility for all their actions,” and uses “conservation projects as the vehicle for learning in an intense environment,” and

Whereas, VYCC has leveraged millions of private and philanthropic dollars and has completed over \$40 million worth of improvements to public lands in

Vermont, and

Whereas, over 500 young adults aged 16 to 24 are annually selected to serve as part of the VYCC, and, since 1985, 5,000 young Vermonters have been selected to participate in this innovative organization, and

Whereas, the VYCC reaches out to disadvantaged and low-income youth, many from families with incomes below the federal poverty level, providing important job skills training and educational opportunities, and

Whereas, the programs the VYCC administers contribute to improvements to Vermont's waters (including work related to the clean and clear program), forests, parks, historic buildings, agricultural lands, fire prevention efforts, trails, and disaster preparedness and relief activities, and

Whereas, as a national leader in programs related to youth, environmental protection, and education and job training, the VYCC has been honored frequently and on five occasions has been presented the Vermont State Park of the Year Award, and

Whereas, the VYCC has been a national leader in developing programs for youth with disabilities, including LEAP, a work-based leadership and training program for blind and visually impaired youth, and

Whereas, dozens of Vermont's nonprofit and for-profit sector leaders received leadership training in VYCC programs, and

Whereas, the VYCC's new year-round school program has produced dramatic results in preventing students from dropping out of school, and it

teaches the students important agriculture-, conservation-, energy-, and natural resources-related skills that have career applications, and

Whereas, mobilizing young Vermonters to promote the green revolution, to help to alleviate climate change, and to conserve energy are missions the VYCC conducts with great pride, and

Whereas, in 2005, the VYCC moved to its magnificent new home at the beautifully restored 1903 West Monitor Barn in Richmond, where it now operates its Youth Leadership, Education and Training Center, and

Whereas, 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of this unique Vermont organization that has served our young people and state with great success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps on its 25th anniversary and honors the organization for its service, in concert with public- and private-sector partners, on behalf of Vermont's youth and the state of Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps in Richmond.