

No. R-034. House concurrent resolution extending best wishes to Pete's Greens organic farm on the reconstruction of its burned barn in Craftsbury.

(H.C.R.30)

Offered by: Representatives Young of Albany, Strong of Albany, Stevens of Shoreham and Ralston of Middlebury

Whereas, Pete's Greens in Craftsbury is no ordinary organic farm, as its owner, Pete Johnson, operates Vermont's largest community-supported agriculture service (CSA), known as "Good Eats," which proudly provides 370 member families with orders of vegetables, meats, and, of course, greens cultivated at the farm as well as grains, cheese, honey, and vinegar produced at other farms in Vermont and Quebec, and

Whereas, Pete's Greens also sells fresh produce at farmers' markets, to Hunger Mountain Co-Op in Montpelier, to the Vermont Pasta Company in Barre, and to restaurants as far away as Boston and New York, and

Whereas, tragically, Pete's Greens' three-story barn, containing crops and farm equipment, was totally destroyed in an early-morning fire on Wednesday, January 12, that apparently started at 3:00 a.m., just hours before a major new agricultural-sector initiative was about to be announced at the state house, and

Whereas, at 4:20 a.m., the already-awake Pete Johnson noticed the flames shooting through the barn's front doors and immediately phoned 911 for assistance, and

Whereas, the Craftsbury Fire Department, under the outstanding leadership of Chief Walter Gutzmann, as well as the Albany, Greensboro, and Wolcott

fire departments, which offered their strong support, created a firefighting contingent of nearly 70 individuals who bravely battled the blaze for 12 hours, and

Whereas, despite these firefighters' heroic efforts and strategic ingenuity, the barn's destruction could not be halted, although Pete Johnson's nearby house and greenhouses fortunately were saved, and

Whereas, Pete Johnson estimated that a quarter-million dollars' worth of crops and equipment was destroyed and that his total loss will be approximately \$450,000, and

Whereas, rebuilding the barn will be a daunting task, but Pete Johnson is a man of great fortitude and hope, and he intends to return to a limited sales program in April and be back to a 100-percent operation by June with a new and even better barn, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends best wishes to Pete's Greens organic farm as it reconstructs its barn in Craftsbury, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Pete Johnson in Craftsbury and to the Craftsbury, Albany, Greensboro, and Wolcott fire departments.