

No. R-47. Joint resolution explaining the importance and value of maple syrup and the University of Vermont's Proctor Maple Research Center.

(J.R.H.9)

Offered by: Representatives Branagan of Georgia, Jewett of Ripton, Burditt of West Rutland, Clarkson of Woodstock, Consejo of Sheldon, Degree of St. Albans City, Evans of Essex, Krebs of South Hero, Lenex of Shelburne, Lewis of Derby, Martin of Wolcott, McNeil of Rutland Town, Myers of Essex, Savage of Swanton and Shaw of Pittsford

Whereas, during the post-election December 2010 congressional session, United States Senator John McCain strongly criticized United States Senator Patrick Leahy's proposed \$165,000.00 earmark for the Proctor Maple Research Center (PMRC) at the University of Vermont as exemplifying wasteful congressional spending, and

Whereas, although the awarding of dubious federal earmarks has been documented, to select this proposed appropriation as a prime example of wasteful federal spending is completely off the mark, and

Whereas, to the contrary, the PMRC, established in 1946 on the site of the former Harvey Farm in Underhill, which Governor Mortimer Proctor personally donated to the University of Vermont, is exactly the type of academically respected and economically vital organization worthy of federal largesse, and

Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, in response to Senator John McCain's assessment of the now scuttled PMRC appropriation, is compelled to explain, with the utmost respect, why the now lost \$165,000.00

grant that Senator Leahy proposed merited the enthusiastic endorsement of United States Senators, including the senior senator from Arizona, and

Whereas, to begin this lesson, it should be noted that 25 percent of all trees in Vermont are maples, thus providing the natural resource foundation for Vermont's proud emergence as the largest producer of maple syrup in the United States, and

Whereas, annually, this production output yields approximately \$15 million in direct sales and has an overall impact on our state's economy in excess of \$226 million, and

Whereas, the Vermont General Assembly has recognized the sugar maple tree as the official state tree (1 V.S.A § 499); and maple from the Vermont sugar maple tree has been similarly recognized as the official state flavor (1 V.S.A § 510), and

Whereas, Vermont was the first state to adopt a comprehensive maple sugar law, and the current version at 6 V.S.A chapter 32 comprehensively addresses the commercial, marketing, and scientific aspects of maple sugaring, and

Whereas, the PMRC has a tripartite mission to conduct maple research, which has resulted in major advances in the field; manage a demonstration maple sugaring operation that serves as a model for commercial maple sugarmakers; and educate producers and the public on the art and science of maple sugarmaking, and

Whereas, no individual, except its faculty and staff, receives direct remuneration from the PMRC, but the Vermont economy benefits enormously from its many accomplishments, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly respectfully concludes this lesson on Vermont Maple Sugarmaking and the University of Vermont's Proctor Maple Research Center for United States Senator John McCain, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to United States Senator John McCain (accompanied by a sample of Vermont Maple Syrup produced at the Proctor Maple Research Center), to the Proctor Maple Research Center, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.