

**No. R-261. House concurrent resolution congratulating the award-winning *The Commons* newspaper on the publication of its 100th issue.**

(H.C.R.200)

Offered by: Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Deen of Westminster, Edwards of Brattleboro, Hebert of Vernon, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, Partridge of Windham, Stuart of Brattleboro and Trieber of Rockingham

Offered by: Senator White

Whereas, Vermont Independent Media (VIM) was incorporated on August 8, 2004, as a nonprofit organization at a time of intense consolidation in the newspaper industry, and

Whereas, this nonprofit organization was established to provide an independent source of local news produced locally for the people of Windham County, and

Whereas, the VIM newspaper, *The Commons*, began monthly publication monthly in January 2006, and, beginning on June 2, 2010, it became a weekly publication, and

Whereas, digitally, *The Commons* is accessible at Commonsnews.org for updated news, and

Whereas, *The Commons*'s hiring of a full-time editor was a major step in its effort to achieve journalistic credibility and integrity, and

Whereas, the professional editorial leadership and *The Commons*'s continuously improving journalistic output established the foundation for the

publication winning six New England Newspapers and Press Association awards for journalism excellence, and

Whereas, increasing the number of community-based writers published in *The Commons* is being realized through the paper's distinctive Voices section that welcomes and features letters, essays, viewpoint commentary, and other original material from around the county and, when relevant, the state, and

Whereas, *The Commons* is considered a model for a successful local weekly newspaper, and the editorial staff was featured in the recent Vermont Public Television documentary, "Headline Vermont," on the history of newspapers in the state, and this television documentary has been nominated for a New England/Boston regional Emmy Award, and

Whereas, VIM has also started a media mentoring project to teach journalism skills to adults and to children in schools, and

Whereas, on May 11, 2011, *The Commons* will proudly publish its 100th issue, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the award-winning *The Commons* newspaper on the publication of its 100th issue, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Independent Media in Brattleboro.