

No. R-376. House concurrent resolution honoring radio station WBTN-AM in Bennington for its public service broadcasting during Tropical Storm Irene.

(H.C.R.281)

Offered by: Representatives Condon of Colchester, Morrissey of Bennington, Mook of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Campion of Bennington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington and Malcolm of Pawlet

Offered by: Senators Sears and Hartwell

Whereas, the mission of Bennington radio station WBTN-AM (1370) is to serve “as a community resource with the potential to express and enhance the lives of the people of the community,” including the airing of radio programs that are “positively influential,” and

Whereas, this broadcasting objective was mightily effectuated on August 28, 2011 as Tropical Storm Irene pounded the Bennington area, and

Whereas, the station’s informative and timely coverage began two days before Irene’s predicted arrival in Bennington when WBTN-AM Executive Director John Likakis developed a broadcasting plan and, along with producer Lexey Covell, met with town officials and emergency responders to coordinate their efforts, and

Whereas, John Likakis arrived at the WBTN-AM studio before 7 a.m. on the day of the storm, and chief volunteer Jim Marshall supervised a continuous pumping operation to assure that encroaching waters did not flood out the station’s headquarters located in a former bomb shelter, and

Whereas, Bennington Town Manager Stuart Hurd, Chief of Police Paul Doucette, and other local government officials worked cooperatively with WBTN-AM throughout the emergency to provide listeners with the most immediate status of road closings, evacuations, power outages, and other pertinent facts, and

Whereas, John Likakis remained behind the microphone that terrible Sunday for over 12 hours, and WBTN-AM volunteer David Lively continued the on-air reports for a further 90 minutes of wrap-up, and

Whereas, the residents of Bennington and environs were grateful to WBTN-AM for assisting them in coping during the onslaught of Tropical Storm Irene, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Bennington radio station WBTN-AM for its public service broadcasting during Tropical Storm Irene, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Likakis at radio station WBTN-AM in Bennington.