

No. R-77. House concurrent resolution in memory of Joan Mulhern

(H.C.R.47)

Offered by: Representatives McCormack of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Deen of Westminster, Emmons of Springfield, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, and Poirier of Barre City

Offered by: Senators Doyle, Fox, MacDonald, McCormack, and Pollina

Whereas, throughout her life, Joan Mulhern fought for the restoration and preservation of a clean and healthy environment, and

Whereas, after graduating from the University of Vermont, she became associate director at the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), and

Whereas, as a VPIRG lobbyist at the General Assembly and in public, Joan Mulhern was extraordinarily well informed and a passionate and tenacious advocate on environmental issues, including reduction in the use of mercury, toxic chemicals, and chlorofluorocarbons; expansion of bottle redemption; advancements in recycling; and banning from landfills waste that is recyclable, hazardous, or radioactive, and

Whereas, the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Tufts University each honored Joan Mulhern in recognition of her environmental advocacy leadership in Vermont, and

Whereas, seeking to effect environmental actions in the national public policy arena, Joan Mulhern continued her education at Georgetown Law and as a law student, she served as a Citizen Witness on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, and

Whereas, she graduated from Georgetown Law in 1997, magna cum laude, and joined the staff at Public Citizen where she fought the tobacco industry on legislative and regulatory matters, and

Whereas, Joan Mulhern eventually resumed her work in environmental advocacy as a staff attorney for Earthjustice where she most recently served as the organization's senior legislative counsel in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, among the issues she most passionately addressed in the halls of Congress were the impact on Appalachian waters of mountaintop-removal mining and the protection of Florida's waters from toxic algae slime, and

Whereas, she was among the featured advocates in a 2007 *Vanity Fair* magazine photo essay entitled: "Eco Heroes," and

Whereas, despite a long-term illness and the frustrations of the political process, Joan Mulhern remained a dedicated environmental advocate until her death at the age of 51 on December 8, 2012, and

Whereas, her survivors include her sisters, Marie and Martha, and brother, John, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the memory and good work of Joan Mulhern and extends its condolences to her family, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send copies of this resolution to Marie, Martha, and John Mulhern.