

No. R-136. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating iBrattleboro on its tenth anniversary.

(S.C.R.21)

By Senator White,

Whereas, in February 2003, Lise LePage and Christopher Grotke introduced iBrattleboro, a digital site intended to fill their perceived need for more coverage of Brattleboro area news and opinion, and

Whereas, this pioneer example of citizen journalism serves as an online information resource and encourages community contributors to submit news stories, meeting information, recipes, notices of events, and other items of local interest, and

Whereas, locally owned MuseArts owns iBrattleboro, and its staff organizes the presentation of content, sets broad policy parameters to assure that a degree of civility is maintained, ensures that plagiarism is avoided and copyrights are respected, and assists contributors experiencing technical difficulties posting their contributions, and

Whereas, the front page highlights include summaries of the latest stories, lists of the most read and discussed stories of the day, and direct links to the full text of all items posted, and

Whereas, the stories are organized according to categories, including news and information, culture, living, opinion, the region, and iBrattleboro, and

Whereas, iBrattleboro offers readers the opportunity to comment on stories, and

Whereas, contributors have established descriptively named reader groups, including Totalitarianism Watch, Bookworms, Foodies United, Knitting and Handwork, and The Groups Group, an instructional forum on how to start an iBrattleboro readers' group, and

Whereas, iBrattleboro recently introduced an updated website featuring improved story organization, enhanced story capabilities, better navigation across the site, and a reorganized weather page, and

Whereas, the editors provide a convenient and informative portal to place advertisements on iBrattleboro, and

Whereas, since iBrattleboro's entry into the digital universe, the public has completed 46 million page views, submitted 22,000 stories, offered 103,000 comments, announced 9,300 events, and participated in 475 polls, all indicators of a successful and informative 21st century venture, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates iBrattleboro on its tenth anniversary and extends best wishes for its future success, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Chris Grotke at iBrattleboro.