

No. R-182. House concurrent resolution congratulating Hartland Winter Trails on the 40th anniversary of its system of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails.

(H.C.R.130)

Offered by: Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland and Sweaney of Windsor

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, the community-managed system of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails in Hartland originated in the early 1970s when Henry Merritt sought a backyard recreational activity to keep his daughter, who suffered from cystic fibrosis, as healthy as possible, and

Whereas, when several high school students sought a practice course for Nordic skiing, they collaborated with adjacent landowners to extend the Merritt trail system to five kilometers, and

Whereas, in the years that followed, other landowners sought to expand the trail system onto their property, eventually necessitating a formal organization to manage this growing winter recreational resource, and

Whereas, in 1995, a group of the trail system's landowners established Hartland Winter Trails (HWT), a nonprofit and user-supported organization, and artist Gloria Charney designed a logo for the group depicting a skier in a descending glide with a mountain range in the background, and

Whereas, HWT's four core goals are "to provide a community resource for families and individuals of all ages; to foster community participation; to promote respect for and appreciation of the natural environment; and to enhance the physical and mental well-being of those who participate," and

Whereas, HWT is now a part of the Hartland Recreation Department, which provides liability insurance and accounting services, but it remains self-governing and dependent on private financial support through individual donations and occasional fundraisers, and

Whereas, HWT now encompasses 25 kilometers of well-maintained winter pathways, an array of sophisticated grooming equipment, and approximately 30 cooperating private landowners, and

Whereas, the Hartland Nordic Club, formed in 2012, is teaching youngsters to ski, and they can take advantage of HWT's new map, and

Whereas, the volunteers of HWT, including Gary Trachier, Jan and Mike Fisher, George and Carol Little, Lorraine Nichols, Theodore and Andrea Ambros, who is the HWT volunteer director, and Roger and Clydene Trachier, along with the skiers and snowshoers of Hartland continue to enjoy this 40-year-old local recreational resource, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Hartland Winter Trails on the 40th anniversary of its system of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Hartland Winter Trails.