

**No. R-373. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Rail System on its 50th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.268)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Bouchard of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Champion of Bennington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Burlington, Condon of Colchester, Corcoran of Bennington, Cross of Winooski, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donaghy of Poultney, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Helm of Fair Haven, Huntley of Cavendish, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Kilmartin of Newport City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Koch of Barre Town, Komline of Dorset, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Lewis of Berlin, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Mook of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Shaw of Pittsford, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Shoreham, Taylor of Barre City, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Trieber of Rockingham, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Campbell, Flory, French, Kitchel, Mazza, Mullin, and Westman

Whereas, in 1963, the State of Vermont, under the leadership of Governor Philip Hoff, purchased the track system of the abandoned Rutland Railway, and

Whereas, on August 6, 1963, Jay Wulfson, a railroad professional, entered into an operational lease agreement with the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, on January 3, 1964, the Vermont Railroad (VTR) began freight service on the 125-mile Rutland Railway network, extending from Burlington to White Creek, New York, and

Whereas, VTR's bright red engine and caboos made daily runs between Burlington and Rutland, and triweekly trips from Rutland to Bennington, and

Whereas, in the early 1970s, VTR acquired the Clarendon and Pittsford Railroad from the Vermont Marble Company, and in the 1980s, it bought the Delaware and Hudson trackage between Rutland and Whitehall, New York, and

Whereas, in 1997, VTR purchased the Green Mountain Railroad, extending from Rutland to Bellows Falls, which included the Green Mountain Gateway agreement, providing VTR with connection to other rail networks, the Riverside Reload Center, and the Green Mountain Flyer, offering scenic seasonal passenger tours, and

Whereas, the 1998 expansion resulted in an administrative consolidation of the separate lines into the Vermont Rail System (VRS), and

Whereas, in 1999, the Washington County Railroad's (WACR) Montpelier and Barre Division was merged into VRS, and by 2003, the State of Vermont had appointed the WACR as the operator of the 104-mile rail line from White River Junction to Newport, and

Whereas, VRS made its first completely out-of-state acquisition in 2002, purchasing the New York and Ogdensburg Railway in New York State, and

Whereas, in 2012, *Railway Age* named the Vermont Rail System as its Short Line of the Year, and

Whereas, in 2014, the VRS operates over 350 miles of track, has more than 125 employees, and hauls annually over 25,000 rail cars, and

Whereas, on January 6, 2014, a 50th anniversary celebration was held at Burlington's Union Station, featuring State, city, and railroad leaders, and other commemorative events will follow throughout the year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Rail System on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Rail System in Burlington.