

**No. R-488. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Washington Electric Cooperative on its 75th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.365)

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais and Klein of East Montpelier

Offered by: Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina

Whereas, the Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) is a nonprofit member-owned electric system, and

Whereas, a nine-person board of directors oversees the management of the WEC, and

Whereas, WEC began serving consumers on December 2, 1939 with its first transmission of diesel-generated power to 150 farms and homes over a 55-mile transmission network, and

Whereas, from this modest beginning, WEC has developed into a regional electricity provider with over 10,500 members, 97 percent of whom are residential customers, and

Whereas, the WEC service area now encompasses 2,728 square miles in parts of 41 towns in Washington, Orange, Caledonia, and Orleans counties, and

Whereas, the distribution network transmitting WEC's electric power extends for 1,200 miles and uses eight substations, and

Whereas, WEC derives two-thirds of its electricity from methane-generated power produced at the Coventry landfill, and

Whereas, construction at the Coventry generating facility began in December 2004, three engines were generating electricity full-time in July 2005, and by 2009 a fifth engine had been added, and

Whereas, WEC owns the hydroelectric generating station at Wrightsville Dam located on the North Branch of the Winooski River, and the station normally produces 800 kW of electricity and has a drainage area of 69 square miles, and

Whereas, a third source of WEC's electricity is First Wind's project in Sheffield, and

Whereas, in 2006, WEC was the recipient of the Renewable Energy Industry Champion Award, and

Whereas, 2014 marks three-quarters of a century of WEC's serving north central Vermont with dependable electric service, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Washington Electric Cooperative on its 75th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Washington Electric Cooperative.