

State of Vermont House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution



J.R.H. 13

Joint resolution relating to federal affordable housing policy

Offered by: Representative Head of South Burlington

Whereas, in 2011, the private Bipartisan Policy Center established a Commission on Housing, which was charged with “examining what the appropriate role of government should be in helping to shape the future housing landscape in an increasingly diverse society,” and

Whereas, the Commission’s four co-chairs were former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, former U.S. Senator Christopher S. Bond, former U.S. Senator and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Mel Martinez, and former U.S. HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, and

Whereas, on February 25, 2013, the Commission issued its report entitled *Housing America’s Future: New Directions for National Policy* (report), and

Whereas, on May 1, 2013, Commission member Nan Roman testified before the Vermont House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs and presented highlights of the report, and

Whereas, the Commission has developed a series of findings that would increase resources for effective programs in Vermont, including the low-income housing tax credit and rural development programs, and

Whereas, in her testimony, Nan Roman noted a number of Vermont initiatives as programs with promise, including the development of the SASH model (support and services at home) for citizens aging in place, and the role of land trusts, and

Whereas, the report proposed (1) focusing rental assistance on the lowest income citizens and making the assistance universally available in an effort to combat and alleviate homelessness; and (2) a significant HUD investment in public housing which according to HUD’s own accounting system has been underfunded for many years, and

Whereas, Vermont has established housing policies which focus on placing development in town and village centers, the rehabilitation of our historic buildings, and serving our lowest income citizens, and

Whereas, according to 10 V.S.A § 302, the creation of affordable housing is a policy goal of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and this policy goal through the Board’s Trust Fund has promoted the preservation of housing stock and made home purchasing available to Vermonters, and

Whereas, the current federal budget crisis requires bipartisan housing policy solutions, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly requests that the National Conference of State Legislatures seek a federal consensus on housing policy as recommended in the report of the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Commission on Housing, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly encourages the Vermont Congressional Delegation to participate in the building of a bipartisan consensus on a federal housing policy, including reallocating funds to pay for increased federal financial support for affordable housing, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and Housing Vermont.