

No. R-229. House concurrent resolution honoring the American Rail Dispatching Center in St. Albans.

(H.C.R.175)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Connor of Fairfield, Corcoran of Bennington, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Fiske of Enosburgh, Gamache of Swanton, Keenan of St. Albans City, Murphy of Fairfax, Parent of St. Albans City, Pearce of Richford, and Savage of Swanton

Offered by: Senator Degree

Whereas, the Vermont & Canada Railroad dispatching office began operating in St. Albans in the late 1840s, shortly after railroad and telegraph service were introduced into the State, and

Whereas, in approximately 1870, the Vermont & Canada Railroad became the Central Vermont Railroad and, near the century's conclusion, was renamed the Central Vermont Railway (CV), and

Whereas, through the decades, the St. Albans dispatching center was coordinating trains throughout Vermont and into New York and Quebec, and, at one expansive point in the 1890s, the CV owned about 1,000 miles of railroad track, as the nation's seventh largest railroad, and

Whereas, in 1969, the Canadian National Railway (CN), then the CV's owner, relocated the dispatching operations to Montreal, but they were returned to St. Albans in 1976 where they have remained, and

Whereas, in 1995, the CN sold the CV to Railtext, and the railroad renamed the line New England Central Railroad (NECR), and

Whereas, beginning in the late 1990s, the number of railroads dispatched from St. Albans began to increase, and

Whereas, subsequently, Railtext sold the NECR to RailAmerica, and

Whereas, the new owner's larger portfolio of railroads again increased the St. Albans dispatch center's responsibilities to approximately 25 to 30 railroads across the United States, and

Whereas, approximately three years ago, the NECR was sold to the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad (GWRR), a railroad that prides itself on placing safety as a primary consideration, and the now renamed American Rail Dispatching Center (ARDC) provides a seamless transition capability that motivated the GWRR to increase further the center's dispatching services, and

Whereas, the ARDC has now expanded to 24 full-time dispatchers, 10 crew callers, and four managers, who dispatch nearly 50 railroads, and

Whereas, under GWRR's ownership, the ARDC has not been involved in any injuries or accidents, and

Whereas, these statistics represent a remarkable accomplishment considering that GWRR has assigned around 9,000 miles of track to the ACR's jurisdiction, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the American Rail Dispatching Center in St. Albans, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Rail Dispatching Center in St. Albans.