

House resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Vermont State Fair

Offered by: Representatives Shaw of Pittsford, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donaghy of Poultney, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Haas of Rochester, Helm of Fair Haven, Komline of Dorset, Malcolm of Pawlet, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Whereas, the Vermont State Fair has a proud history dating to 1846 when the first Rutland Fair, a one-day event, was held on a field near Castleton, and

Whereas, after migrating to different locations near Rutland City, the Rutland Fair settled at its present home in 1859, the site then known as Rutland County Park, and

Whereas, the deed for this land requires that an agricultural fair be held on the property once a year, and

Whereas, as the popularity and scope of the Rutland Fair grew, the Fair's duration was extended, first to two and then to three days, and by 1933 had become a six-day event, attracting crowds from across Vermont and out of state, and

Whereas, the resiliency of the Rutland Fair was demonstrated in 1939 when a grandstand destroyed by fire was rebuilt in just 40 days, and

Whereas, the Rutland Fair’s statewide agricultural and cultural roles were formally acknowledged in 1972 when it was renamed the Vermont State Fair, and

Whereas, the Vermont State Fair provides an annual boost to the local economy in Rutland and to the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, the Rutland County Agricultural Society (RCAS) is the governing organization of the Vermont State Fair, and

Whereas, internal management difficulties at the RCAS have required the appointment of a new interim president-general manager and the initiation of a comprehensive internal audit, and

Whereas, the problems the RCAS now confronts are serious and could place the future of the Vermont State Fair in jeopardy, and

Whereas, the leadership of the RCAS is taking responsible steps to resolve the current difficulties and enable the Vermont State Fair to continue welcoming fairgoers each summer, and

Whereas, patience during this challenging transition period and expressions of public support will assist the RCAS as it works carefully, but optimistically, to keep the Vermont State Fair open, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body expresses its support for the continuation of the Vermont State Fair, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Rutland County Agricultural Society.