

**No. R-85. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Vermont State Geologist and Geological Survey Director Laurence R. Becker.**

(S.C.R.10)

By Senators Lyons, Ayer, Benning, MacDonald, McCormack, and Snelling,

By Representatives Beyor of Highgate, Deen of Westminster, Ellis of Waterbury, Klein of East Montpelier, Krebs of South Hero, Lefebvre of Newark, McCullough of Williston, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Terenzini of Rutland Town, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury,

*Whereas*, geology is a science focused on the earth's "physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it," and

*Whereas*, for nearly two decades, Laurence Becker was the geological authority for the State of Vermont in his dual role as the Vermont State Geologist and Director of the Vermont Geological Survey, and

*Whereas*, his duties also entailed directing the State's radioactive waste management program, and

*Whereas*, central to Laurence Becker's geological role was advocating for reliance on science, and especially geology, in addressing the state's environmental issues and in the protection of public health and safety, and

*Whereas*, collaboration was central to Laurence Becker's geological endeavors, and he worked closely with academic institutions and other State government offices and with local communities, where his focus was on specific environmental issues such as ground water protection and hazardous waste mitigation, and

*Whereas*, Laurence Becker was an advocate and strong supporter in the development and issuance of the 2011 Bedrock Geologic Map of Vermont, and

*Whereas*, he was involved in the drafting of the protocols for Vermont's aquifer protection program, and

*Whereas*, Laurence Becker's congressional testimony on defining and protecting recharge areas related to municipal wells was incorporated into the federal Clean Water Act, and

*Whereas*, the Vermont Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy appreciated his expert testimony on groundwater resource identification and protection, and

*Whereas*, among Laurence Becker's responsibilities were: chairing the Education Committee of the Association of American State Geologists and the Northeastern States Emergency Consortium's state geologists' panel; serving on the Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Committee and the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel; and maintaining a close working relationship with the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, and

*Whereas*, Laurence Becker concluded his exemplary public sector career in December of 2014, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors former Vermont State Geologist and Vermont Geological Survey Director Laurence Becker, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Laurence Becker.