

No. R-198. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Westford School Periodic Pandas on their selection as semifinalists in the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award competition.

(H.C.R.159)

Offered by: Representative Bancroft of Westford

Whereas, in 1998, *FIRST*, a nonprofit organization encouraging youngsters to engage “in playful and meaningful learning” that is scientifically and technologically centered, and the LEGO Group jointly established the *FIRSTLEGO* League, and

Whereas, *FIRSTLEGO* League participants apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts to the creation of innovative solutions to real-world problems, and

Whereas, the *FIRSTLEGO* League operates on core values of respect for competitors and the importance of learning over winning, and it conducts the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award competition, and

Whereas, the Westford School Periodic Pandas’ team project, BeeFinder.org, sought to “create a location aware software solution to identify and develop native bee habitat [which has been disappearing],” and

Whereas, the Periodic Pandas’ proposed solution relies on open data sources, such as satellite imagery and GIS maps, that can “ identify the necessary habitat conditions to promote thriving native bee populations,” and the team proposes that the data be made broadly available, and

Whereas, on April 18, 2017, the Periodic Pandas were delighted to learn they were selected as one of 20 semifinalist teams from among entrants representing 30 countries, and

Whereas, as semifinalists, the Periodic Pandas will travel in June to Washington, D.C., for the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award championship where the winning team will be awarded a \$20,000.00 research grant to continue its project, and the judges will also present similarly purposed grants of \$5,000.00 to two runner-up teams, and

Whereas, the thrilled Westford School Periodic Pandas advancing in this international scientific challenge are Molly Drapa, Max Drapa, Carmela Symula, Grace Symula, Isabella Armata, Jordan Hutchins, Mason Eckman, Robert Morse, Emilie Bennett, Eli Pierce, Lazaria Harris, and Ximena LescieurGarcia, and Coaches Mark Drapa and Peter Symula are inspiring mentors, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Westford School Periodic Pandas on their selection as semifinalists in the *FIRSTLEGO* League Global Innovation Award competition and extends best wishes for their journey to Washington, D.C., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Westford School.