

No. R-143. House concurrent resolution celebrating the unique attributes of Green River Reservoir State Park.

(H.C.R.117)

Offered by: Representatives Higley of Lowell, Hill of Wolcott, Noyes of Wolcott, Patt of Worcester, Rogers of Waterville, Scheuermann of Stowe, and Yacovone of Morristown

Whereas, constructed in the 1940s as a hydropower source for the Town of Morristown and as a flood control project, the 653-acre Green River Reservoir has a surrounding 19-mile shoreline that is almost entirely undeveloped, and

Whereas, the reservoir features a common loon nesting area and a great blue heron rookery, and

Whereas, under the ownership of the Morrisville Water and Light Department, the public was invited to recreate at the site, and its increasing popularity diminished its primitive character, and

Whereas, a proposal for the State to acquire Green River Reservoir and the adjacent property, in order to restore its primitive character, came to fruition through the administrative efforts of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Nature Conservancy and with the financial support of the federal Forest Legacy Program and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, and

Whereas, on March 30, 1999, the 5,110-acre Green River Reservoir State Park was officially established, and the financing of the transaction was finalized on March 29, 2000, and

Whereas, most unusually, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy jointly hold a conservation easement on Green River Reservoir State Park; and

Whereas, the park is restricted to “dispersed public outdoor recreation use that is low-impact” and, with limited exceptions, “non-commercial and non-motorized, and for primitive camping resources, as well as quiet enjoyment of the Protected Property,” and

Whereas, “residential, commercial, industrial or mining activities,” are not permitted, and

Whereas, group-use permits are required for camping and day use during the summer season when the park is officially open and a license or special use permit may be needed for group use at other times of the year, and

Whereas, the restrictions on activity at Green River Reservoir State Park create a fantastic outdoor experience not readily replicated in other Vermont State parks, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the unique attributes of Green River Reservoir State Park, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation and to the Morrisville Water and Light Department.