

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 4

Joint resolution expressing support for the Vermont students who led a protest to demand that public officials act now to halt and reverse climate change

Offered by: Representative Ralph of Hartland

Whereas, a Swedish secondary school student, Greta Thunberg, has spurred a movement of her peers, who are demanding that public officials become proactive on climate change so that the resulting environmental damage can be halted and ideally reversed, and

Whereas, the weekly student strikes she inspired, known as Fridays for Future, spread beyond Sweden's borders through much of Europe, and

Whereas, the strong concerns that motivated European students to advocate for serious attention to climate change are now motivating students worldwide, including those in Vermont, and

Whereas, on March 15, 2019, Woodstock Union High School students organized the first Fridays for Future student strike in their community, and

Whereas, the students marched from Woodstock Union High School into the center of town, where, with speeches and accompanying posters, they expressed their dismay at the lack of effective efforts to reverse climate change, and

Whereas, on the same day, approximately 200 students from Montpelier High School, U-32 High School, and Stowe High School, and other community groups organized a similar march to the State House, and

Whereas, at a State House press conference, one Montpelier student explained to the cheering students that her participation was intended to convey the message "I will not tolerate climate inaction," while another student cited Caribbean hurricanes, California wildfires, and increased numbers of ticks in Vermont as evidence of climate change, and

Whereas, the students expressed their frustration that climate change legislation, such as H.477, a bill that would establish a carbon charge and includes other climate change measures, was not being acted upon, and

Whereas, on Town Meeting Day 2019, 16 municipalities passed nonbinding ballot measures calling for action on climate change, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses support for the Vermont students who led a protest to demand that public officials act now to halt and reverse climate change, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Fridays for Future organizers from Montpelier, U-32, Stowe, and Woodstock high schools and to the Vermont Youth Lobby.