

State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Concurrent Resolution

By Senators Benning and Kitchel,

By Representatives Feltus of Lyndon and Seymour of Sutton

S.C.R. 7. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Bag Balm on its 120th anniversary.

Whereas, in 1899, stories spread in the Northeast Kingdom that a talented Wells River pharmacist had developed a salve that ameliorated skin chafing and cracking, especially as it occurred on the udders of cows, and

Whereas, in 1900, the reportedly miraculous effectiveness of the salve intrigued Lyndonville farmer John Norris, who mounted his best horse and rode the 30 miles to Wells River to conduct a personal investigation, and

Whereas, confirming that the stories were true and the salve effective, John Norris, exercising his business acumen, secured from the pharmacist all rights to the salve, and the product has been produced in Lyndonville ever since, and

Whereas, John Norris hired a product designer who created the balm's now famous packaging, consisting of a green tin with a cover featuring the head of a cow and the State flower of Vermont, the Red Clover, and

Whereas, the application of Bag Balm for relief of human skin irritation soon increased the product's popularity, and among its diverse applications are to alleviate chapped lips, saddle sores, windslap, and generally dry skin, and

Whereas, Bag Balm was invaluable in 1933 when Northeast Kingdom residents experienced temperatures that plummeted below minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit, convincing the famous Arctic explorer U.S. Admiral Richard Byrd to take it on his 1937 North Pole expedition, and

Whereas, during World War II, soldiers applied Bag Balm to their rifles in order to keep their weapons sharp, and in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks at the World Trade Center, with no fanfare, the Bag Balm corporate office donated a supply of the salve to sooth the paws of the search dogs who were combing the site for survivors, and

Whereas, Bag Balm is now sold in different sized tins, in tubes and large pails, and as a soap, and

Whereas, 2019 marks 120 years since Bag Balm was developed in a Wells River pharmacy, and this dependable multi-purpose skin care product continues to be effective in numerous ways, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Bag Balm on its 120th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the headquarters of Bag Balm in Lyndonville.