

**No. R-117. House concurrent resolution congratulating the National Wild Turkey Federation on its 50th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.94)

Offered by: Representatives Brennan of Colchester, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Clifford of Rutland City, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan of Milton, Parsons of Newbury, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Wilson of Lyndon

Whereas, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) was established on March 28, 1973, to promote “the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage,” and today it is an international organization with more than 250,000 members in 17 nations, and

Whereas, in order to ensure future healthy turkey populations in the United States, the NWTF has spent over \$8.5 million, and

Whereas, since 1985, the NWTF has invested in excess of \$500 million “to conserve or enhance more than 22 million acres of critical wildlife habitat, forests, and grasslands across public and private lands,” and the organization is proud to be the longest-serving and largest nonprofit stewardship partner of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and

Whereas, since 2012, the NWTF has recruited more than 1.5 million hunters in its effort to revitalize the sport, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the NWTF has a membership numbering approximately 1,150 and is organized into a State chapter and three local chapters—the Southern VT Limbhangers, the Lamoille County Strutters, and the Lake Champlain Longbeards, and

Whereas, the Vermont natural resources agenda of the NWTF is “to maintain healthy hardwood forests, stop habitat loss, and increase habitat diversity and winter wildlife survival,” and, during the past five years, NWTF has made 1,031 acres accessible to hunting, while, in the same time period, it has recruited 264 new hunters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the National Wild Turkey Federation on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the national headquarters and Vermont chapters of the NWTF.