

**No. R-310. House concurrent resolution honoring Mary Houghton of Brattleboro as an extraordinary advocate for sustainable and affordable housing.**

(H.C.R.252)

Offered by Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Goodnow of Brattleboro

Offered by Senators Harrison and Hashim

*Whereas*, for nearly 40 years, Mary Houghton has envisioned, initiated, and promoted affordable housing in Vermont's communities, and

*Whereas*, her affordable housing passion can be traced back to 1987, when she began a 20-year tenure as the director of finance at the still-experimental and fledgling Burlington Community Land Trust (BCLT), with its mission to facilitate permanently affordable housing for both renting and ownership through community ownership of the underlying land, and

*Whereas*, Mary Houghton's leadership at BCLT has been characterized as "foundational to the organization's early growth and enduring success," and "transforming it into one of the most respected community land trusts in the country," and, in 2002, the Ford Foundation awarded the organization and its leaders, Houghton and her co-director, Brenda Torpy, the Leadership for a Changing World award, and

*Whereas*, her standard schedule of being the first to arrive, last to leave, and frequently working weekends, exemplified her dedication and passion for the mission of BCLT, and resulted in her designation as a co-director, and

*Whereas*, a critical outcome of her work was the successful merger of BCLT and the Lake Champlain Housing Development Corporation into the larger and greater-resourced Champlain Housing Trust, and

*Whereas*, Mary Houghton brought her affordable housing expertise to southern Vermont, where for nine years she served as both the finance director and deputy director of the Brattleboro Housing Authority, and

*Whereas*, more recently, as a volunteer, she has served on the boards of the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, Brattleboro's Tri-Park Cooperative Housing Corporation, and the Vermont State Housing Authority, and

*Whereas*, in 2019, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board presented Mary Houghton with its George Nutting Community Catalyst Award, and

*Whereas*, aside from her exemplary affordable housing efforts, Mary Houghton has served on the board of the Public Safety Project, a municipal community improvement effort in the Old North End of Burlington, and, since 2019, on the Legislative Apportionment Board, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors Mary Houghton of Brattleboro as an extraordinary advocate for sustainable and affordable housing, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mary Houghton.