

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 163

Offered by Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Boyden of Cambridge, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, James of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Kimbell of Woodstock, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of Rutland City, Malay of Pittsford, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Pinsonault of Dorset, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Tagliavia of Corinth, White of Waitsfield, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown

House concurrent resolution honoring Mary Houghton of Brattleboro as an extraordinary advocate for sustainable and affordable housing

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 the 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.