

No. R-68. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board on its 25th anniversary.

(H.C.R.38)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Moran of Wardsboro, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Savage of Swanton, Stevens of Waterbury, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Vowinkel of Wilder, and Weed of Enosburgh

Whereas, a quarter century ago, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation, 1987 Acts and Resolves No. 88, "An act relating to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund" (the Act) with the "dual goals of creating affordable housing for Vermonters, and conserving and protecting Vermont's agricultural land, historic properties, important natural areas and recreational lands," and

Whereas, the Act created the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (the Board) with the powers to fund grants for projects under its statutory mandate and to enter into cooperative agreements with other organizations, and

Whereas, the Act also established the Vermont Housing and Conservation Fund (the Fund) for the financing of projects and activities that the Board may authorize, and

Whereas, the board has invested \$264 million in over 200 Vermont communities and simultaneously leveraged an additional one billion dollars in federal and private funds, and

Whereas, 10,780 affordable homes and apartments have been made available for over 27,000 Vermonters including 1,268 for individuals with special needs, 1,900 in mobile home parks, and 1,578 accessible housing units, and

Whereas, 594 farms covering over 144,000 acres have been preserved, and

Whereas, the Fund has financially supported the preservation of over 253,000 acres of recreational and natural land including: the Long, Catamount, Cross Vermont, and East Montpelier Trails; 11 state parks; the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's conservation of a 14-mile ridgeline trail and wildlife reserve, and the former Champion Lands and other sites including Bald Mountain, Wilmarth Woods, and Shelburne Pond, and

Whereas, among the over 50 historic buildings the Fund has helped preserve are town halls, theaters, historic barns, and an art gallery, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board on its 25th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.