

**No. R-91. House concurrent resolution honoring the green industry in Vermont and celebrating the 2017 Vermont Flower Show.**

(H.C.R.66)

Offered by: Representative Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, horticulture (the green industry) plays a significant economic role in Vermont's agricultural sector, and

Whereas, according to the 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture Census, the most recent for which state data is available, 7.7 percent of Vermont's agricultural sector is horticulturally based, and

Whereas, regional surveys have estimated the overall value of the green industry in Vermont at \$119 million, and

Whereas, a 2009 University of Vermont survey counted roughly 5,600 Vermonters employed in the green industry whose total compensation was approximately \$50 million, and

Whereas, Vermont Technical College has reported that environmental horticulture students achieve 100 percent job placement and 20 percent of green industry jobs remain unfilled, and

Whereas, Green Works, established in 1964 as the Vermont Plantsmen's Association, also formerly known as the Vermont Association of Professional Horticulturists, and now operating as the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association, has a membership that includes gardening specialists, landscape architects, retailers, allied trade personnel, students, and educators, and

Whereas, the mission of Green Works "is to support and strengthen the horticultural industry of Vermont by creating greater awareness of the benefits of landscaping and promoting the professional services and products," of its members, and

Whereas, Green Works promotes Vermont horticulture through *The Dirt*, a quarterly newsletter; a program to certify horticulturalists in the State; an industry awards program, and most visibly to the general public, through the Vermont Flower Show, a biennial even that this year is taking place on March 3–5 at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction, and

Whereas, the 2017 Vermont Flower Show, with a theme of Neverland that is based on the Peter Pan story, will include an over 10,000-square-foot grand garden display featuring flowering bulbs, shrub trees, and water features; a landscaped display with trains by the Vermont Garden Railway Society; educational seminars; gardening experts; local artists; a book sale; entertainment; and food, and is a great way to welcome the arrival of spring, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the green industry in Vermont and celebrates the 2017 Vermont Flower Show, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Green Works and to the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.