

No. R-172. House concurrent resolution honoring Gary Wheelock for his dedicated service on behalf of the New England dairy industry.

(H.C.R.137)

Offered by: Representative Ainsworth of Royalton

Whereas, the New England Dairy & Food Council (NEDFC) is a dairy farmer supported nonprofit educational organization that develops professionally researched nutritional guidelines, and its partner nonprofit organization, the New England Dairy Promotion Board (NEDPB), creates promotional activities on behalf of the region's dairy industry, and

Whereas, Gary Wheelock is one of the true stalwarts of the New England dairy industry who has been a staff member at NEDFC-NEDPB for 27 years, and for the past two decades has served as their chief executive officer, and

Whereas, although he grew up in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, Gary Wheelock's ancestors were from Calais where they resided on a farm, and

Whereas, throughout his tenure at NEDFC-NEDPB, Gary Wheelock has worked diligently to improve New England consumers' understanding and appreciation for the economic and nutritional value of dairy products, and

Whereas, he has spearheaded a successful initiative to increase dairy farmers' participation in the school breakfast program, and

Whereas, educational efforts to inform academics on the nutritional benefits of dairy products has been a major focus for Gary Wheelock, and

Whereas, the continued availability of milk in school cafeterias has been one of his important priorities, and

Whereas, serving as an invaluable liaison between dairy farmers and retail stores is a role that Gary Wheelock has recognized is a primary concern for the region's dairy farmers, and

Whereas, Gary Wheelock's wise counsel has extended beyond our region's borders as he is a major participant in the deliberations of the United Dairy Industry Association (UDIA), and

Whereas, after a fulfilling career advocating, educating, facilitating, and serving on behalf of Vermont's dairy farmers, Gary Wheelock is concluding his career at NEDFC-NEDPB and looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Karen, and

Whereas, both Agri-Mark and St. Albans Cooperative, the regional dairy farmers' cooperatives, and the UDIA have expressed formally their appreciation for Gary Wheelock's major contributions to the vitality and continuity of the nation's dairy commerce, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Gary Wheelock for his dedicated service on behalf of Vermont's and New England's dairy farmers, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Gary Wheelock.