

**No. R-303. House concurrent resolution honoring the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation on its 40th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.215)

Offered by: Representatives Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Branagan of Georgia, Consejo of Sheldon, Degree of St. Albans City, Gilbert of Fairfax, Howrigan of Fairfield, Keenan of St. Albans City, McAllister of Highgate, Pearce of Richford, Perley of Enosburgh and Savage of Swanton

Offered by: Senators Brock and Kittell

Whereas, in the early 1970s, Franklin County had the state's highest unemployment rate as approximately 1,000 jobs were lost when the Canadian National Railroad purchased the Central Vermont Railroad, and local farming jobs were being eliminated due to agricultural automation, and

Whereas, St. Albans City Mayor M. "Ken" Kaye contacted Governor Deane Davis in 1971, resulting in the city's receiving \$1 million in federal funds from the New England Regional Commission, and being designated as Vermont's growth center, and these funds established the Target Area Action Program (TAAP) to reduce unemployment and to upgrade living standards in Franklin County, and

Whereas, in 1976, with federal funding exhausted, TAAP was redesignated as the Target Area Development Corporation (TADC) with a specific focus on economic development in Georgia, St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, and Swanton, and

Whereas, TADC determined that industrial park formation was the best economic development strategy, and the Swanton Industrial Park, with a diverse lineup of businesses, was the first to open, and

Whereas, a second industrial park opened in St. Albans Town and by 1980, a third industrial park, “the Dairy Industrial Park,” had opened in Georgia, and TADC was also instrumental in attracting the United States Immigration & Naturalization Service to St. Albans City, which became the area’s largest employer, and

Whereas, as the 1980s progressed, Franklin County’s unemployment rate was no longer the state’s highest, and in 1984, TADC renamed itself the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC) with a new countywide economic development mandate, including fostering the creation of local Enosburg and Richford industrial development corporations, and

Whereas, attracting Canadian companies and assisting in the presentation of youth job fairs have been among FCIDC’s activities, and

Whereas, recently, the \$1.5 million Phase I infrastructure construction project was completed on the St. Albans Town Industrial Park’s expansion parcel, and

Whereas, executive directors Frank Cioffi, Brian Susslin, Tom Hungerford, Tim Soule, and Tim Smith, and current FCIDC Chair Bill Cioffi have enabled Franklin County to improve its economic vitality, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation on its 40th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to FCIDC Executive Director Tim Smith.