

No. R-368. House concurrent resolution congratulating Grafton Elementary School students on winning a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

(H.C.R.222)

Offered by: Representatives Partridge of Windham and Trieber of Rockingham

Whereas, in 1993, the Vermont Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence were established to "recognize the actions taken by Vermonters to conserve and protect natural resources, prevent pollution, and promote environmental sustainability," and

Whereas, among the criteria for determining award recipients are a project's benefits to the environment, use of innovative approaches and technologies, and its advancement of environmental education, and

Whereas, one of the 2011 submissions for this award came from a group of Grafton Elementary School students who established a project entitled "Grafton is Green and so are We": Students take the lead to promote reusable bags, and

Whereas, the project began as a part of Grafton's Nature Museum Pale Blue Dot program, encouraging environmental reflection and action, and received partial financial support from a Windham Foundation leadership grant, and

Whereas, the students collected and displayed 2,663 single-use bags to represent the number of bags used in the United States every second, and created a slide show to illustrate the negative environmental impact of single-use bags, and

Whereas, fifth grade students designed and sold reusable bags to demonstrate that an alternative to single-use bags is readily available and viable, and

Whereas, the Grafton Elementary School students were interested in more than presenting visual evidence of single-use bags' deleterious consequences as they also sought to affect the public policy debate on this topic in a very direct manner, and

Whereas, they advocated for the introduction and adoption of H.19 in the Vermont House of Representatives which would prohibit retail establishments from providing customers with single-use bags, starting in July 2012, and

Whereas, the students were honored at a State House ceremony on June 30, 2011, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Grafton Elementary School students on winning a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Grafton Elementary School