

No. R-352. House concurrent resolution celebrating the preservation and reopening of the Vermont Marble Museum in Proctor.

(H.C.R.256)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Malcolm of Pawlet, Potter of Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, and Stevens of Shoreham

Offered by: Senators Flory, French, and Mullin

Whereas, for decades, the Vermont Marble Company (VMC) played a major economic role in the town of Proctor, and

Whereas, the spacious VMC showroom attracted customers who purchased the beautiful marble excavated from its quarries, and

Whereas, in 1994, Martin and Marsha Hemm purchased the showroom building, and operated the for-profit Vermont Marble Museum, and

Whereas, economic factors led to the museum's closure in 2012, and

Whereas, the museum's cultural significance, and the 87,000-square-foot building's economic potential, prompted the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) to intervene, and

Whereas, under the leadership of project director Emily Wadhams, the PTV started a \$400,000.00 fundraising campaign with the dual goals of purchasing the building and reopening the museum, and

Whereas, with \$330,000.00 of the necessary \$400,000.00 raised, the Hemm family agreed to lend the balance to facilitate the purchase, and

Whereas, after a short transitional period, the PTV will transfer ownership of the building to a newly formed nonprofit corporation, Vermont Marble Museum Inc., and

Whereas, former Central Vermont Public Service Corporation President Robert Young, his wife, Victoria, and a board of directors will manage the new corporation, and

Whereas, the reopened Vermont Marble Museum will offer free admission to Proctor residents and everyone under 18 years of age, and

Whereas, the University of Pennsylvania has purchased some of the museum's archival collection, and has agreed to lending arrangements, and

Whereas, the museum and gift shop are located on the building's second floor, facilitating rental options for the lower level, and

Whereas, the Town of Proctor envisions the Vermont Marble Museum as an economic catalyst and community center, and its reopening coincides nicely with the municipality's strategic planning, and

Whereas, the Vermont Marble Museum's leadership intends to collaborate with the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland and other regional organizations with similar missions, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the preservation and reopening of the Vermont Marble Museum in Proctor, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Preservation Trust of Vermont, to Vermont Marble Museum Inc., and to the Proctor Town Clerk.