

No. R-448. House concurrent resolution designating the Deerfield Valley as the Blueberry Capital of Vermont.

(H.C.R.332)

Offered by: Representatives Manwaring of Wilmington and Moran of Wardsboro

Offered by: Senators Hartwell, Sears, Shumlin and White

Whereas, farm communities across America have been looking for new agritourism ventures with substance and long-range benefits, and

Whereas, blueberries have long been touted as one of the highest antioxidant fruits available, and

Whereas, blueberry picking has long provided a healthy family activity that is fun for all ages and promotes good eating habits, and

Whereas, the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival was the brainchild of Janet Boyd and the Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington who promoted the festival to businesses, schools, and town governments, encouraging their participation with the slogan “It’s fun, it’s silly, and something everyone can take part in,” which she repeated to group after group, and

Whereas, beginning in 2008, the Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the annual Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival over nine days from late July to early August, primarily in the towns of Wilmington, Whitingham, and Dover, in order to promote the cultivation of blueberries in the Deerfield Valley through participation in blueberry-inspired activities, and

Whereas, for two years in a row, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has

recognized the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival as one of the top 10 events in the state, symbolizing the successful efforts of Deerfield Valley residents to show that one festival can make a difference and improve the local economy, and

Whereas, the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival promotes the purchase and eating of locally grown healthy foods that are free of pesticides, and

Whereas, the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival also encourages local participation in the state's farm-to-school program, which is the most effective tool to reduce Vermonters' consumption of trans fats, empty calories, and packaged foods, and to win the war on childhood obesity, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates the Deerfield Valley as the Blueberry Capital of Vermont and extends best wishes for the success of the 2010 Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce in Wilmington.