

No. R-481. House concurrent resolution congratulating GW Plastics on being named *Plastic News* magazine's 2010 Plastics Processor of the Year.

(H.C.R.353)

Offered by: Representatives Ainsworth of Royalton and Haas of Rochester

Whereas, 54 years ago, two Vermont entrepreneurs, Odin A. Westgaard and John R. Galvin, established GW Plastics in a Bethel dairy barn intending to produce plastic moldings for the automobile industry, and

Whereas, in 1983, Frederic Riehl and other GW Plastics managers purchased the company from its then out-of-state owners, believing that local ownership and attention were preferable, and

Whereas, with this new closely held corporate ownership structure, GW Plastics became deeply committed to serving its customer base and established operating principles of discipline, consistency, quality, and experience, and

Whereas, in 1990, the company acquired an industrial building in Royalton that is now a major mold production and technology development center, and

Whereas, GW Plastics has shown concern for its employees, many of whom are long-term, with clean and well-lit work spaces, an effective apprenticeship program, and a generous benefits program, and

Whereas, a decade ago, the company's perceptive leadership recognized that the auto industry should no longer be its primary market and wisely shifted two-thirds of its design and manufacturing of plastic molding to health-care-related products, and

Whereas, in recent years, GW Plastics has constructed new factories in Texas and Arizona as well as in Mexico and China, but the out-of-state and overseas expansion has never come at the cost of a single Vermont job, and

Whereas, GW Plastics now employs 250 of its 600 employees in Vermont, making it Vermont's 65th largest employer and the state's 30th largest company when its annual \$78–\$80 million revenue is the determining ranking criterion, and

Whereas, proud of GW Plastics' record of accomplishment, its president and CEO Brenan Riehl, the son of Frederic Riehl, decided to apply for his industry's most prestigious award, *Plastic News* magazine's Plastics Processor of the Year, and

Whereas, the application and review procedure for this honor is extremely rigorous, and the four finalists were invited to the magazine's headquarters in Tampa, Florida, where the Vermonters were thrilled to be declared the well-deserved 2010 recipient of *Plastic News* magazine's Plastics Processor of the Year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates GW Plastics on being named *Plastic News* magazine's 2010 Plastics Processor of the Year, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Brenan Riehl in Bethel.