

No. R-497. House concurrent resolution welcoming the National Speleological Society to Vermont for its 2010 national convention.

(H.C.R.365)

Offered by: Representatives Nease of Johnson, Acinapura of Brandon, Andrews of Rutland City, Baker of West Rutland, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Bray of New Haven, Browning of Arlington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Crawford of Burke, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Emmons of Springfield, Fagan of Rutland City, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Howard of Cambridge, Klein of East Montpelier, Krebs of South Hero, Larocque of Barnet, Lenex of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Derby, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McDonald of Berlin, McFaun of Barre Town, McNeil of Rutland Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Myers of Essex, Orr of Charlotte, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Peaslee of Guildhall, Pellett of Chester, Peltz of Woodbury, Perley of Enosburg, Poirier of Barre City, Pugh of South Burlington, Shand of Weathersfield, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of Mendon, Spengler of Colchester, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Winters of Williamstown and Wizowaty of Burlington

Whereas, the National Speleological Society (NSS) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the scientific study of caves and karst; the protection of caves and their natural contents through conservation, ownership, stewardship, and public education; and the promotion of responsible cave exploration and fellowship among those interested in caves, and

Whereas, a small group of scientists and cave explorers established the NSS in 1941 at a meeting in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, today the NSS has over 11,000 members in all the states and territories of the United States, and

Whereas, through its individual member scientists, explorers, and conservationists, the NSS has become the premier organization dedicated to educating the public concerning all aspects of caves and karst and their protection, and

Whereas, the NSS is in the forefront of the battle to eradicate White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease currently devastating bats hibernating in American caves, and

Whereas, the society's efforts to end the WNS epidemic include raising funds for research grants, conducting field and laboratory research, and assisting state and federal agencies to find the cause of WNS and to prevent its spread, and

Whereas, the NSS has chosen Vermont as the site of its 2010 annual national convention, to be held August 2–6 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, and

Whereas, the organization's membership will conduct business meetings; attend workshops and scientific presentations; educate the public about WNS, cave safety, and rescue procedures; present picturesque cave photography and videography; and enjoy the best of Vermont's art, food, music, and natural beauty, and

Whereas, the Vermont Cavers' Association (Grotto 394 of the National Speleological Society) and especially its members Ken Moore and Rick Pingree have devoted years of effort in advance planning to assure that the NSS convention to be held in Vermont this summer is a great success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly welcomes the National Speleological Society to Vermont for its 2010 national convention, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ken Moore.