

No. R-454. House concurrent resolution recognizing the economic vibrancy of the Northeast Kingdom.

(H.C.R.377)

Offered by: Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Higley of Lowell, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Martel of Waterford, Quimby of Concord, Shaw of Derby, Strong of Albany, Toll of Danville, Troiano of Stannard, Viens of Newport City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Benning, Kitchel, Rodgers, and Starr

Whereas, the Northeast Kingdom (NEK), traditionally defined as Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties, is a term that U.S. Senator George Aiken popularized in a 1950 address at the organizational meeting of the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA), a regional development corporation, and

Whereas, the NVDA is an important economic catalyst for a region inhabited by hard-working Vermonters, where the harsh climate and largely rural landscape pose both economic challenges and opportunities, and

Whereas, other regional organizations that partner with the NVDA to develop a productive regional economic infrastructure include the Small Business Development Center, the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative, the Northeast Kingdom Travel and Tourism Association, and the North Country Chamber of Commerce, and

Whereas, the NEK includes persevering entrepreneurs such as Pete Johnson of Craftsbury, who rebuilt his well-known Pete's Greens into an even better agricultural business, following a devastating fire, and

Whereas, the recently completed 1,000-foot runway extension at the newly renamed Northeast Kingdom International Airport promises enhanced private and commercial aviation access and exciting new economic opportunities, and

Whereas, Foreign Trade Zone 286 facilitates international commerce, due to its special legal provisions that modify or eliminate various U.S. Customs delays, payments, and restrictions, and

Whereas, the NEK has benefited from State and federal programs such as the Vermont Economic Development Authority, Community Development Block Grants, and U.S. Department of Agriculture support, including rural development grants and the creation of the Northeast Kingdom Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone, and

Whereas, the NEK has much to offer in economic potential for future growth and prosperity, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the economic vibrancy of the Northeast Kingdom, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, the North Country Chamber of Commerce, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.