

No. R-505. House concurrent resolution congratulating Kelly Stettner of Springfield on being named the 2014 winner of the Green Mountain Power–Zetterstrom Environmental Award.

(H.C.R.382)

Offered by: Representatives Martin of Springfield, Dakin of Chester, and Emmons of Springfield

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, in 2000, Kelly Stettner of Springfield established the Black River Action Team (BRAT) upon her discovery of “a river full of tires, shopping carts, and trash,” and

Whereas, when she exclaimed that “somebody ought to do something,” her husband responded “well, you’re somebody,” and she resolved to take action, and

Whereas, from a humble start of three volunteers cleaning the Black River’s banks, BRAT now involves hundreds of volunteers who work around the Black River watershed, and

Whereas, the foundation for BRAT is “active creative partnerships and common-sense stewardship,” and it operates under the auspices of the Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District, and

Whereas, among the highlights of BRAT’s activities are planting native trees to stabilize stream banks, collaborating with the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission on an informational brochure about the Black River watershed, hauling trash out of the river and its tributaries, establishing monthly, volunteer, water quality monitoring, creating an Adopt-the-River Campaign to encourage protection of sections of the Black River, and forming the Plant Partners program to manage invasive species in the watershed, and

Whereas, none of this innovative work would have come to fruition without the foresight and dedicated leadership of Kelly Stettner, who directs the organization as a volunteer in addition to working full-time, and

Whereas, the Green Mountain Power–Zetterstrom Environmental Award honors individual Vermonters and organizations with a demonstrated dedication to improving Vermont’s natural resources that emulates Meeri Zetterstrom’s multi-year effort to restore ospreys in Vermont, and

Whereas, Kelley Stettner, the 2014 winner was cited for “her force of will and incredible optimism,” that built a coalition that will “help protect the river for generations to come,” now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Kelly Stettner of Springfield on being named the 2014 winner of the Green Mountain Power–Zetterstrom Environmental Award, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Kelly Stettner in Springfield.