2010 -- S 2503

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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S E N A T E   R E S O L U T I O N

CONGRATULATING ORACLE CEO LARRY ELLISON AND THE BMW ORACLE
RACING TEAM ON WINNING THE 33RD AMERICA'S CUP COMPETITION

Introduced By: Senators Paiva-Weed, Connors, Felag, C Levesque, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: February 24, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1   WHEREAS, The Royal Yacht Squadron Cup was founded in 1851 and holds the

2   distinction of being the oldest active trophy in international sports. It became known as the

3   America's Cup after the schooner "America" became the first yacht to win the competition; and

4   WHEREAS, In 1957, the trophy was donated to the New York Yacht Club, located in

5   Newport, Rhode Island, where it remained until 1983, when the Royal Perth Yacht Club's

6   "Australia II" took the title, ending the longest winning streak in the history of the sport and

7   moving the America's Cup Regatta from Rhode Island's beautiful "City by the Sea"; and

8   WHEREAS, On Sunday, February 14th, 2010, racing against "Alinghi," the sailing

9   syndicate BMW Oracle, under the leadership of team owner Larry Ellison, won its second

10   consecutive challenge and successfully returned the America's Cup trophy to the United States;

11   and

12   WHEREAS, Mr. Ellison is the founder of Oracle Racing and a five-time Maxi World

13   Champion with the Sayonara racing program. He was a Louis Vuitton Cup finalist in 2003 with

14   Oracle BMW Racing, and he won the Owner Driver Series of the Moet Cup in 2003 and the UBS

15   Trophy in 2004; and

16   WHEREAS, The first race was a simple upwind-downwind loop totaling 40 miles, while

17   race two was 39 miles long and around an equilateral triangular course, comprised of a 13 mile

18   beat and two 13 mile reaches. The two giant multihulls reached speeds in excess of 25 knots in

19   roughly 10 knot winds; and

1   WHEREAS, Comprised of many of the preeminent sailors in the world, the BMW

2 Oracle's Racing Team energetically captured the America's Cup and returned to America for a

3 well-earned "Victory Tour"; and

4   WHEREAS, The Rhode Island state quarter features the sailboat Reliance, the yacht

5 built at the Herreshoff Manufacturing Co. in Bristol, Rhode Island, that successfully defended the

6 America's Cup trophy in 1903; and

7   WHEREAS, As the sailing capital of the United States, Newport has a history rooted in

8 the marine trades. Newport is home to the America's Cup Hall of Fame and the renowned

9 International Yacht Restoration School. The waters of Newport and Rhode Island Sound provide

10 excellent sailing conditions, and the City hosts some of the most prestigious sailing events in the

11 world; and

12   WHEREAS, As the host city for 12 of the 33 America's Cup races, Newport has

13 demonstrated its numerous infrastructure advantages. The City's accommodations are world

14 class, and its beauty is second to none; and

15   WHEREAS, The residents of Newport and citizens throughout Rhode Island are

16 exceptionally steeped in the State's vibrant maritime tradition and appreciate the historic

17 significance of Newport in the tradition of America's Cup racing. Newport is home to the longest

18 winning streak in the history of the sport; now, therefore be it

19   RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

20 hereby heartily congratulates Larry Ellison and the BMW Oracle racing team on winning the 33rd

21 America's Cup Challenge; and be it further

22   RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby urges Oracle CEO Larry Ellison to confer the

23 prestigious honor of hosting the 34th America's Cup Challenge to the jewel in our Ocean State's

24 crown, the City of Newport. We furthermore warmly welcome and congratulate Mr. Ellison on

25 the recent purchase of the famed Astors' Beechwood Mansion in Newport; and be it further

26   RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to

27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Larry Ellison, Oracle CEO.