

**No. R-65. House concurrent resolution commending watershed organizations for their role in river and lake cleanup activities in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.35)

Offered by: Representatives Townsend of South Burlington and Deen of Westminster

Whereas, clean water is essential to Vermonters' personal health and the health of our economy and environment, and

Whereas, water-based recreation is a vital aspect of our State's identity as a major recreational activity among Vermonters and visitors to our state, and

Whereas, polluted waters are not accessible waters, do not support aquatic life, and imperil public health, and

Whereas, it is important to improve continuously the quality of Vermont's waters, and

Whereas, a number of watershed organizations working in Vermont are engaged in efforts to rid Vermont's waters of natural and human-originated debris, and

Whereas, in 2012, one watershed organization, the Rozalia Project, directed a project involving 1,430 participants who picked up 503,317 pieces of marine debris, equaling 88.5 tons from 310 miles of Vermont's shoreline, and

Whereas, the Connecticut River Watershed Council mobilized over 1,000 persons and removed over 99 tons of trash from the Connecticut River and its tributaries, and

Whereas, these are just examples of the outstanding cleanup work that watershed groups are performing, and

Whereas, these groups deserve legislative recognition for their dedication to this worthy endeavor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commends watershed organizations for their role in river and lake cleanup activities in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Rozalia Project in Granville and to the Connecticut River Watershed Council Inc. in Greenfield, Massachusetts on behalf of its cooperating Vermont organizations, including 350.org, Black River Action Team, Braintree Conservation Commission, Farm & Wilderness, Grafton Nature Museum, Greater Upper Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, Putney Rowing Club, Randolph Rotary Club, Randolph Technical Career Center, Rockingham Vermont Conservation Commission, Roundy's Rascals, Sharon Academy, Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance, TransCanada, Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Law School, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, and Volunteers for Peace.