

No. R-64. House concurrent resolution congratulating the National Railway Historical Society on its 80th anniversary and welcoming its 2015 convention to Rutland.

(H.C.R.45)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, in 1935, 40 rail fans from two rail clubs in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Trenton, New Jersey, founded the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) as a way to encourage railroading and railroad preservation, and

Whereas, today, the over 13,000 members of NRHS are focused on the preservation of historic train equipment, railways, and stations that are vanishing from the American landscape, and

Whereas, this primary mission is supported through the awarding of NRHS Heritage Grants to specific preservation projects, and

Whereas, more broadly, the NRHS promotes all aspects of rail preservation through educational activities, films, photography, social media, and special events, and

Whereas, the premier NRHS event is the organization's annual convention that in 2015 is convening in Rutland from June 14–21, and

Whereas, there are plans for many exciting scenic railway trips along tracks of the Vermont Railway System (VRS) that are not usually accessible for passenger rail travel, and

Whereas, these special trains will consist of open window coaches and parlor, dome, and lounge cars of historic vintage, and

Whereas, the convention's train travel offerings will include a photo train, Omya train, and Father's Day trip open to the general public, and

Whereas, a much anticipated excursion will be the ride from Rutland traversing the Saratoga and North Creek Railroad that will employ 1940s-era BL2 diesel engines, of which only a handful survive, and

Whereas, the NRHS is appreciative of the cooperation and support of the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce and of Vermont Rail System, and

Whereas, the 2015 NRHS convention is a wonderful opportunity for the showcasing of Vermont's railway history, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the National Railway Historical Society on its 80th anniversary and welcomes its 2015 convention to Rutland, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the National Railway Historical Society, the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Vermont Railway System.