

**No. R-418. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont Law School on the inauguration of its solar energy project.**

(H.C.R.329)

Offered by: Representative Buxton of Tunbridge

Whereas, in 1978, Vermont Law School (VLS) established its Environmental Law Center (ELC), and over the past 26 years, the magazine *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked VLS as the home of the nation's top environmental law program on 18 occasions, including "for 2017," and

Whereas, in recent years, VLS has focused on the interaction of environmental and energy policy through the establishment of an Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) with a mission "to have fewer greenhouse gas emissions in 50 years because of the work we do today," and

Whereas, in 2014, IEE established the Energy Clinic, a full-year law clinic that is focused on solar development and especially models that advance community solar ownership, and

Whereas, through the recently completed construction of a 500-kilowatt solar photovoltaic project on Gee Hill Road in South Royalton, VLS has taken the goal of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions to heart as part of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, and

Whereas, students in the Energy Clinic played a major role in the legal work leading to the construction of this renewable energy project that will supply over one-half of VLS's electric energy requirements and reduce the school's carbon footprint, and

Whereas, VLS evaluated seven proposals in a competitive solicitation process and entered into an agreement with a local solar company that built and will own and operate the project, and

Whereas, the school will purchase all of the project's net metering and renewable energy credits and will also retire the renewable energy credits to guarantee that the solar energy generated will reduce both the school's and the State's carbon footprints, and

Whereas, the solar panels are elevated four feet above the ground to enable sheep to graze on the site, creating a unique and commendable combination of agricultural landscape preservation and renewable energy production, and

Whereas, representatives of VLS are visiting the State House today, April 6, 2016, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont Law School on the inauguration of its solar energy project, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Law School.