

No. R-398. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont Railway on its selection as the 2012 Shortline Railroad of the Year.

(H.C.R.318)

Offered by: Representatives Bohi of Hartford, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bouchard of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Campion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Donahue of Northfield, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Fisher of Lincoln, Haas of Rochester, Higley of Lowell, Howard of Cambridge, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Krebs of South Hero, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lewis of Derby, Malcolm of Pawlet, Martin of Springfield, McCullough of Williston, Moran of Wardsboro, Munger of South Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Peaslee of Guildhall, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Russell of Rutland City, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Wilson of Manchester, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Glover

Offered by: Senators Cummings, Flory, Hartwell, Kitchel, Mazza and Westman

Whereas, shortline railroads serve a vital economic role hauling freight in the most efficient and cost-effective manner over distances that larger haulers would not favor, and

Whereas, *Railway Age*, the transportation industry's oldest trade publication, annually awards the special honor of Shortline of the Year to one deserving railroad with a limited track system, and

Whereas, after much consideration, the staff of *Railway Age* selected Vermont Railway (VTR) as the 2012 Shortline of the Year, and

Whereas, the company's founder, Jay Wulfson, established this first-in-the nation public-private rail partnership in 1964, and before the end of its first

day of operation, VTR was ordering larger size locomotives to haul its increasing freight traffic, and

Whereas, in 1967, VTR began offering intermodal piggyback trailer-on-flatcar service for shipments into and out of Vermont, which proved popular, and

Whereas, over the years, VTR acquired other rail lines, including the Clarendon and Pittsford (1972), a portion of the D&H (1983), the Green Mountain Railroad (1997), and most recently the Washington County Railroad and the New York & Ogdensburg Railway, all now organized into the Vermont Rail System, a family-owned enterprise with 120 employees and over 230 miles of track supporting freight and passenger services, and

Whereas, in selecting the VTR for this special honor, *Railway Age* cited the weather of 2011, starting with the spring floods and then the historic damage left by Tropical Storm Irene, resulting in unprecedented rail bed washouts and other infrastructure damage, and

Whereas, VTR arranged detours and transloads for freight, largely restored the severely damaged rail infrastructure in three weeks, helped repair Route 107 by moving 130,000 tons of rock in 10 weeks, and with the agency of transportation implemented a project to enhance Amtrak's Ethan Allen service on the VTR right-of-way, and

Whereas, the award will be officially presented to VTR in Indianapolis on April 24, 2012, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont Railway on its selection as the 2012 Shortline Railroad of the Year, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Railway in Burlington.