

## 2006 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 346

Offered February 17, 2006

*Commending the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.*

Patrons—McClellan, Alexander, Amundson, Byron, Cosgrove, Cox, Crockett-Stark, Dance, Eisenberg, Fralin, Hall, Hargrove, Howell, A.T., Janis, Jones, D.C., Lingamfelter, Marshall, R.G., May, McEachin, McQuigg, Miller, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Peace, Plum, Purkey, Reid, Rust, Scott, E.T., Toscano, Valentine, Waddell, Ware, R.L. and Watts

WHEREAS, the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, an innovative and successful bioscience park located in downtown Richmond, celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Park was created as a joint initiative of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Richmond, and Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, since its incorporation as a nonprofit in 1992, and the creation in 1993 of the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park Authority as a financing and development mechanism, Virginia BioTechnology Research Park has helped start 61 bioscience companies, 27 of which have matured into larger companies, including three that are publicly traded; and

WHEREAS, the 34-acre downtown park received its first tenants in 1995 when the Virginia BioTechnology Center began to house the state's first technology incubator and was officially dedicated on January 17, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Park's growth has continued, contributing to Richmond's economy and scientific knowledge, and after the new research and technology center for Philip Morris USA is completed, the Park will exceed 1.1 million square feet of space in nine buildings, nearing a \$500 million capital investment and will have over 50 bioscience companies with an employment base of 2,000 scientists, researchers, engineers, and technicians; and

WHEREAS, when fully developed, the Park will contain 1.5 million square feet of research, office, and laboratory space in more than a dozen buildings and will employ 3,000 industry professionals; and

WHEREAS, understanding the explosive growth of the life science industry, the Park has established relationships at satellite facilities in Chesterfield and Henrico Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Park has enhanced its mission beyond developing the life science industry in the City of Richmond to one that will promote the advancement of science, nurture the environment, and accommodate the functions of a thriving biosciences community in the Greater Richmond area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park representatives as an expression of the gratitude of the General Assembly for improving the quality of life for all Virginians.

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