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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 470

Offered March 8, 2010

Commending the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patron—McClellan, Abbott, Alexander, BaCote, Barlow, Brink, Bulova, Carr, Ebbin, Englin, Filler-Corn, Herring, Hope, Howell, A.T., Keam, Kilgore, Kory, Lewis, Miller, P.J., Morgan, Morrissey, Pollard, Sickles, Surovell, Torian, Toscano, Tyler, Ward and Ware, O.; Senators: Deeds, McDougle, Norment and Puckett

WHEREAS, in 1960 a small group of conservation-minded individuals met in the City of Richmond to form the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Chapter is now part of a global organization with offices in all 50 states and more than 30 countries that has a mission to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive; and

WHEREAS, since the birth of the Virginia Chapter 50 years ago, The Nature Conservancy has helped protect over 300,000 acres of private and public land across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy has been a partner with the Commonwealth in establishing wildlife management areas, state forests, natural area preserves, and state parks; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy in Virginia has worked to protect lands and waters on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, resulting in the longest expanse of coastal wilderness remaining on the eastern seaboard of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy in Virginia has worked to protect Southwest Virginia's Clinch River, considered America's most important river for rare and imperiled freshwater animals; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy in Virginia has worked to protect the best remaining forest in the Chesapeake Bay watershed along Dragon Run in the Middle Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy in Virginia has worked to protect Warm Springs Mountain in Bath County, in the heart of globally important forests of the Central Appalachians; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy in Virginia has worked to protect the northernmost old-growth pine savannas in the Eastern United States at Piney Grove Preserve in Sussex County, which harbors Virginia's most endangered bird; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy has continued to be a leader in pioneering conservation science and building partnerships with diverse stakeholders to protect numerous other special places around the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is celebrating its 50th anniversary of outstanding conservation success throughout Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and its dedicated staff, volunteers, and 31,000 members on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to The Nature Conservancy in Virginia as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the organization for its dedication to the protection of the Commonwealth's precious natural heritage.

INTRODUCED

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