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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 413

Offered February 17, 2012

*Commending the Virginia Biotechnology Association.*

Patrons—O'Bannon, Sickles, Albo, BaCote, Bulova, Carr, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Englin, Farrell, Filler-Corn, Garrett, Gilbert, Greason, Habeeb, Helsel, Hodges, Hope, Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, James, Joannou, Jones, Keam, Kilgore, Knight, Kory, Landes, LeMunyon, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Lopez, Loupassi, Marshall, D.W., Massie, May, McQuinn, Merricks, Minchew, Morefield, Morrissey, O'Quinn, Orrock, Peace, Plum, Poindexter, Purkey, Ramadan, Ransone, Rush, Rust, Scott, E.T., Scott, J.M., Sherwood, Spruill, Stolle, Surovell, Torian, Toscano, Tyler, Villanueva, Ward, Ware, R.L., Yancey and Yost

WHEREAS, the Virginia Biotechnology Association, founded on November 4, 1992, is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to supporting the scientific and economic efforts of Virginians as they discover and develop new tools to treat patients, enhance agriculture, identify new sources of energy, and enhance the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Biotechnology Association provides support to more than 200 bioscience and medical technology companies widely distributed in every region of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the convergence of systems biology, genomics, proteomics, nanotechnology, bioinformatics, diagnostics, medical informatics, and personalized medicine brings us to the threshold of a new era in patient care; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's bioscience industry has grown by more than 23 percent since 2001, contributing to the employment of more than 80,000 people and more than \$13 billion to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the average life sciences job pays more than \$40,000 above the average annual wage in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Biotechnology Association has devoted the last two decades to initiatives to promote STEM education, workforce development, entrepreneurship, research and development, job creation, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2012, the Virginia Biotechnology Association will celebrate its 20th anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the Virginia Biotechnology Association for its service to the bioscience industry in Virginia on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the board of directors of the Virginia Biotechnology Association as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for the Association's efforts to improve the quality of life for all Virginians.

INTRODUCED

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