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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 306

Offered January 23, 2015

Commending Virginia Organizing.

Patrons—McEachin, Barker, Dance, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Miller, Petersen and Saslaw; Delegates: Carr, Filler-Corn, Futrell, Herring, Hester, Hope, James, Keam, Kory, Lopez, McClellan, McQuinn, Morrissey, Plum, Preston, Rasoul, Sickles, Simon, Spruill, Surovell, Toscano, Tyler and Watts

WHEREAS, in 2015, Virginia Organizing, a nonprofit organization with chapters throughout the Commonwealth, celebrates 20 years of empowering and encouraging individuals to work together to strengthen their communities; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing was founded in August 1995 as the Virginia Organizing Project; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing was the first statewide organization formed to encourage the active participation by different constituencies of people on a variety of issues; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing is a grassroots organization dedicated to helping people address the issues that affect the quality of their lives and has members in every region of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Virginia Organizing has built relationships with diverse individuals and groups across the state, enhancing their ability to work together for positive change; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has facilitated many Dismantling Racism workshops and hundreds of leadership training programs in all parts of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has worked on local, state, and national campaigns on a variety of issues, including affordable housing, children's issues, criminal justice, discrimination, economic security for families (jobs, minimum wage, living wage, predatory lending), education, environment, fair elections, health care, immigration, poverty, anti-racism, sexual orientation, tax reform, and other social justice issues; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has encouraged non-partisan participation in the electoral process by preparing and distributing hundreds of thousands of statewide voter guides, registering voters, helping individuals restore their voting rights, and encouraging people to vote through phone banking, door-to-door canvassing, and providing transportation to the polls; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing has received national and state awards and accolades for its work to organize for change in local communities and for making a deep and meaningful commitment to those who are traditionally disenfranchised in their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia Organizing on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Organizing as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and appreciation for its dedicated service to the people of Virginia.

INTRODUCED

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