

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 174

Commending Merck's Elkton plant.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 25, 2016
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 4, 2016

WHEREAS, in 2016, Merck's Elkton plant proudly celebrates 75 years of being a leading manufacturer in the Shenandoah Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Elkton plant, which is near the Rockingham County town of the same name, is part of Merck, an innovative global leader in healthcare; the plant employs an array of manufacturing technologies to support the production of medicines; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Elkton plant, which first opened its doors in 1941, is to provide an environment where all people can do their best work; the plant utilizes continuous improvement mindsets, works to build a reputation of trust, and encourages the development of highly trained staff whose experience and expertise are critical to the plant's long-term success; and

WHEREAS, at the Elkton plant, organic synthesis and biotechnology operations are used to manufacture many intermediate products used to treat fungal infections and unhealthy levels of cholesterol; and

WHEREAS, the Elkton plant has been involved in pharmaceutical operations for more than 40 years; the plant supports the manufacture of many products and is involved in the fermentation and purification operations for alum adjuvant—part of Merck's vaccine business; and

WHEREAS, the Elkton plant is heavily engaged in Merck's efforts to increase its biologics business, especially the development and commercialization efforts for Merck's insulin franchise; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 employees of the Elkton plant live in the Commonwealth and the company is well-known for its family-friendly policies and for supporting and encouraging employment opportunities for veterans; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Elkton plant has contributed to the local economy in many ways and has generated millions of dollars of economic benefits throughout the Shenandoah Valley; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Merck's Elkton plant on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Merck's Elkton plant as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for the company's many years of producing life-saving medicines in the Shenandoah Valley and its myriad contributions to the Commonwealth.

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