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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

Offered January 20, 2016

Commending the James River Association.

Patrons—Dunnavant, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Garrett, Howell, McEachin, Stuart, Wagner and Wexton

WHEREAS, the James River is Virginia's largest river, flowing for 340 miles from the Allegheny Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, and is Virginia's largest tributary of the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the James River watershed, which is home to more than one-third of Virginia's citizens, covers 25 percent of the Commonwealth and 15 percent of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, the James River is rich in natural and historic resources, including the site of the nation's founding at Jamestown and Virginia's modern capital in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the James River watershed provides extensive economic, environmental, and recreational benefits; and

WHEREAS, the James River Association is a nonprofit citizens' organization dedicated to the conservation and the responsible stewardship of the natural and historic resources of the James River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the James River Association has been working to protect and enhance the James River's resources since 1976 and celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the James River Association is committed to educating all people on the importance of the James River and the resources that it provides through an annual expedition down the entire river, a yearlong leadership academy for high school students in the watershed, and an ecology center that hosts hundreds of people each year; and

WHEREAS, the James River Association sponsors a "Riverkeeper" program that helps maintain the beauty of the James River and protect its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the James River Association encourages and coordinates watershed restoration projects to remove invasive species, rebuild riparian buffers, and protect the James River in many other ways; and

WHEREAS, the James River Association advocates for the James River through the publication of the *State of the James* report, which for almost 40 years has assessed the changes in the natural resources of the James River watershed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the James River Association hereby be commended on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and for educating countless people of all ages; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the James River Association as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for its diligent advocacy on behalf of one of Virginia's most precious natural resources.

INTRODUCED

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