

## 2017 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1070

*Commending Sunset Hills Vineyard.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 21, 2017

Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 2017

WHEREAS, Sunset Hills Vineyard, a renowned farm winery in Loudoun County, received a gold medal in the 2017 Virginia Governor's Cup wine competition for its 2012 Mosaic; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Governor's Cup wine competition, hosted annually by the Virginia Wineries Association, showcases the best of the best in Virginia wine and is one of the most stringent competitions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sunset Hills Vineyard was originally established as Wenner Farm in 1870; Diane and Mike Canney purchased the farm in 1997 and spent years renovating the historic property and planting a 23-acre vineyard; and

WHEREAS, Diane and Mike Canney now operate five farms throughout Loudoun County and Shenandoah County, producing some of the finest wine grapes in the Commonwealth on their more than 250 acres of land, including grapes for Sunset Hills Vineyard's own wines and 40 - 70 tons of grapes annually for other Virginia wineries; and

WHEREAS, Sunset Hills Vineyard places a strong emphasis on sustainable agriculture by working to eliminate the use of herbicides and to reduce the use of pesticides; it has also worked with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to create monarch butterfly gardens, bluebird trails, and other wildlife-friendly initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Sunset Hills Vineyard has contributed to the community as one of the largest solar-powered businesses in the Commonwealth, with a 245-panel system generating clean, renewable energy for the farm and its neighbors; and

WHEREAS, in addition to creating hundreds of local jobs, Sunset Hills Vineyard is committed to philanthropy and has donated time and funds to charitable organizations supporting wildlife preservation efforts, the arts, education, and health; and

WHEREAS, Sunset Hills Vineyard has received more than 100 local, state, national, and international awards, and with tens of thousands of annual visitors to the farm and its tasting rooms in Purcellville and Middleburg, Sunset Hills Vineyard is an integral part of the Commonwealth's fast-growing wine industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Sunset Hills Vineyard on receiving a 2017 Virginia Governor's Cup gold medal for its 2012 Mosaic; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Diane and Mike Canney as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for Sunset Hills Vineyard's contributions to the Commonwealth's world-class wine industry.

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