

985808412

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 426

Offered March 4, 1998

*Commending Virginia Power.*

Patrons—Purkey, Almand, Baker, Blevins, Bryant, Byron, Callahan, Cantor, Cox, Cranwell, Davis, Devolites, Diamonstein, Dillard, Drake, Dudley, Hamilton, Hargrove, Harris, Howell, Ingram, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, S.C., Katzen, Kilgore, Landes, Marshall, May, McClure, McDonnell, McQuigg, Melvin, Morgan, Murphy, Nixon, O'Brien, Orrock, Parrish, Plum, Putney, Reid, Rhodes, Robinson, Rollison, Ruff, Sherwood, Tata, Thomas, Van Yahres, Wagner, Wardrup, Ware and Weatherholtz

WHEREAS, the winter of 1998 has proved to be a harsh one for the residents of much of the eastern United States, with ice and snow storms causing property damage and personal hardship for citizens from Maine to North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on two occasions, Virginia Power has been called on to respond to weather-caused emergencies: in early January in the northeastern United States and in late January in West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, when the worst ice storm in a century paralyzed much of New England and the eastern provinces of Canada on January 6-8, the resulting power outages, caused by as much as five inches of ice on trees and power lines, affected approximately four million residents; and

WHEREAS, power companies in Vermont and New York requested the assistance of Virginia Power, which responded by sending some 130 employees to assist local crews in the hard-hit areas of Burlington, Vermont, and Watertown, New York; and

WHEREAS, often working 16-hour shifts in sub-zero conditions, these 130 Virginia Power employees spent as many as 12 days away from their homes and families to help restore power to the residents of the northeast; and

WHEREAS, in late January, a major snowstorm left much of West Virginia buried under as much as three feet of snow and caused significant damage to electricity distribution facilities; and

WHEREAS, once again, Virginia Power responded to the call for help, sending a total of 69 employees and 39 vehicles to assist in restoring power to the citizens of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, often working in snow, sleet, and freezing rain, these Virginia Power employees won the admiration and respect of their West Virginia counterparts and the gratitude of electricity consumers for their steadfastness and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, when a similar storm threatened Virginia soon after the crews were dispatched to West Virginia, Virginia Power honored its commitment, and the Virginia Power crews remained in West Virginia for nearly a week, completing the job they were sent to do; and

WHEREAS, the quick and effective response of Virginia Power to the calls for help from other states is an indication of the utility's emphasis on customer service and the dedication, skill, and perseverance of its employees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Virginia Power and its many fine employees for providing critical assistance to the citizens of Vermont, New York, and West Virginia during recent weather-related emergencies; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Power as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the company's public spirit and its employees' singular generosity.

INTRODUCED

HJ426