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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 206

Offered February 22, 2010

*Commending Friends of the Rappahannock.*

Patrons—Houck, Hanger, McDougle, Stuart and Vogel

WHEREAS, Friends of the Rappahannock is celebrating its 25th anniversary of protecting one of the Commonwealth's most beautiful natural resources, the Rappahannock River, through advocacy, restoration, and education; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) was founded in 1985 as a nonprofit, grassroots, conservation organization to help maintain the water quality and scenic beauty of the Rappahannock River and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, FOR has grown from the efforts of a few concerned citizens to a membership of more than 2,000 volunteers dedicated to protecting the Rappahannock from its headwaters to the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, FOR helped establish a permanent conservation easement on 4,232 acres of land along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers; and

WHEREAS, FOR supported the removal of Embrey Dam, which opened 600 miles of water upstream of Fredericksburg to migratory fish; and

WHEREAS, FOR educated more than 30,000 area schoolchildren through fun and educational field environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, FOR helped repair 45,000 feet of stream and river banks to filter pollution and completed many stream-bank restoration projects on farms along the river's headwaters; and

WHEREAS, FOR pioneered low-impact development planning in partnership with local governments and developers using natural filters to reduce pollution in water runoff; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, FOR has announced a new goal: to hire a river keeper by 2011 for the Rappahannock's tidal basin area, which includes Lancaster, Middlesex, Essex, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Friends of the Rappahannock on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Friends of the Rappahannock as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the nonprofit organization for its dedication to the preservation of the Rappahannock River.

INTRODUCED

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