

2012 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 538

Offered March 28, 2012

Commending the Mermaid Winery.

Patrons—Yancey, James, Albo, Alexander, BaCote, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Brink, Byron, Carr, Cline, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, M.K., Crockett-Stark, Dance, Dudenhefer, Fariss, Farrell, Filler-Corn, Garrett, Gilbert, Head, Herring, Hodges, Hope, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, Joannou, Jones, Keam, Kilgore, Knight, Landes, Lingamfelter, Lopez, Marshall, D.W., Massie, May, McClellan, McQuinn, Miller, Morris, Morrissey, O'Bannon, O'Quinn, Orrock, Peace, Pogge, Purkey, Putney, Ramadan, Ransone, Robinson, Rush, Rust, Scott, E.T., Sherwood, Stolle, Toscano, Tyler, Villanueva, Ward, Ware, R.L., Watson, Watts, Webert, Wilt and Yost

WHEREAS, the Mermaid Winery, the Commonwealth's first urban winery, will welcome customers to its Norfolk location with a grand opening on May 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, urban wineries, such as those found in Hong Kong, San Francisco, and London, allow customers the opportunity to have a winery experience without having to travel into the countryside; and

WHEREAS, at an early age, Jennifer Doumar, the owner of Mermaid Winery, developed an interest in winemaking after visiting California with her parents; she graduated from Auburn University and spent most of her career in advertising before deciding to pursue her dream; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Doumar spent a year and a half in sales at Prince Michel Vineyard and Winery to study the industry before embarking on the business endeavor with her father, George Eichert, as her silent partner; and

WHEREAS, the Mermaid Winery will feature a tasting bar and restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating and offer a Chardonnay, a Cabernet Franc, a red blend, a semi-dry white blend, and peach and raspberry wines; and

WHEREAS, the Mermaid Winery, which draws its name from the mythical source of beauty, represents the winery's vision of producing visually stunning wines; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Doumar will plant grapevines at the location in Norfolk's Ghent neighborhood for onsite winemaking as well as buy grapes to help make the wine; and

WHEREAS, the Mermaid Winery will join the Commonwealth's growing wine industry, which had record sales in fiscal year 2011 of 5.5 million bottles, up 11 percent from 2010; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Mermaid Winery hereby be commended on the occasion of its grand opening; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jennifer Doumar and George Eichert as an expression of the House of Delegates' congratulations on the Mermaid Winery's opening.

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