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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 174

Offered February 23, 2016

*Commending Merck's Elkton plant.*

Patrons—Hanger; Delegate: Landes

WHEREAS, in 2016, Merck's Elkton plant proudly celebrates 75 years of being a leading manufacturer in the Shenandoah Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Elkton plant, which is near the Rockingham County town of the same name, is part of Merck, an innovative global leader in healthcare; the plant employs an array of manufacturing technologies to support the production of medicines; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Elkton plant, which first opened its doors in 1941, is to provide an environment where all people can do their best work; the plant utilizes continuous improvement mindsets, works to build a reputation of trust, and encourages the development of highly trained staff whose experience and expertise are critical to the plant's long-term success; and

WHEREAS, at the Elkton plant, organic synthesis and biotechnology operations are used to manufacture many intermediate products used to treat fungal infections and unhealthy levels of cholesterol; and

WHEREAS, the Elkton plant has been involved in pharmaceutical operations for more than 40 years; the plant supports the manufacture of many products and is involved in the fermentation and purification operations for alum adjuvant—part of Merck's vaccine business; and

WHEREAS, the Elkton plant is heavily engaged in Merck's efforts to increase its biologics business, especially the development and commercialization efforts for Merck's insulin franchise; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 employees of the Elkton plant live in the Commonwealth and the company is well-known for its family-friendly policies and for supporting and encouraging employment opportunities for veterans; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Elkton plant has contributed to the local economy in many ways and has generated millions of dollars of economic benefits throughout the Shenandoah Valley; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Merck's Elkton plant on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Merck's Elkton plant as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for the company's many years of producing life-saving medicines in the Shenandoah Valley and its myriad contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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