

## 2022 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 137

*Commending Peter J. Knop and Beata K. Knop.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 9, 2022

WHEREAS, Peter J. Knop and Beata K. Knop have greatly served communities of the Commonwealth through the preservation of farmland in Loudoun County and the establishment of the National Botanic Garden in Chantilly; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Beata Knop had a love of nature instilled in them as they were growing up and were determined to meet a need of the community with the establishment of a botanic garden; and

WHEREAS Peter and Beata Knop began adding to Peter's parents' farm in 1954 by purchasing additional pieces of real estate that they hoped to preserve; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Peter and Beata Knop added 17 farms to their original property, bringing their total land holdings to more than 1,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Beata Knop have been strong supporters of sustainable land use policies, lobbying for changes to preserve farmland, placing their properties in agricultural districts, and encouraging preservation efforts by others; and

WHEREAS, with a desire to develop a great American garden that could be used for the education and enjoyment of Americans and to demonstrate unique and modern agricultural practices to other countries, Peter and Beata Knop greatly expanded the gardens begun by Peter's family; and

WHEREAS, Peter and Beata Knop founded the National Botanic Garden Foundation for the preservation of the gardens they had created and to pursue the research and development of new economically and environmentally beneficial crops; and

WHEREAS, the National Botanic Garden that Peter and Beata Knop created offers many distinctive natural resources and amenities, including a sculpture park, botanic gardens, commercial bamboo gardens, a horticultural center, park system, and wildlife refuge, providing visitors with a unique experience of nature and art and demonstrating how the new circular economy can benefit all those associated with it; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Peter J. Knop and Beata K. Knop hereby be commended for their dedication to the preservation of Loudoun County farmland and the establishment of the National Botanic Garden in Chantilly; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Peter J. Knop and Beata K. Knop as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for their contributions to the Commonwealth.

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