

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE
31ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH; AND
PART OF ARLINGTON AND FAIRFAX COUNTIES
3556 NORTH VALLEY STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22207

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES, CHAIR
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
FINANCE
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

SENATE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 417

Commending the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

WHEREAS, the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI) is recognized for its outstanding efforts to improve the way environmental decisions are made in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the VNRLI is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, having been established in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the VNRLI helps Virginians take on the most challenging, costly, and divisive local, regional, and state environmental and land use issues through collaborative problem solving; and

WHEREAS, the VNRLI is a partnership program of the University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation, Virginia Tech's Cooperative Extension, and the Virginia Departments of Forestry and Conservation and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the principal goal of the VNRLI is to develop a network of leaders throughout the private, public, and nonprofit sectors who can help the groups involved in contentious natural resource issues move beyond conflict toward consensus building; and

WHEREAS, to build consensus, those leaders are now actively working in their communities, private industry, and governmental agencies throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the program offered by VNRLI consists of six three-day sessions of mini-lectures, experiential role-plays and exercises, field trips, and stakeholder panel discussions about environmental topics to cover the core curriculum elements that include natural resource issues, conflict resolution and problem solving, personal communication and leadership skills, cultural awareness, and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the VNRLI has had over 250 alumni graduate from this intensive, year-long course; and

WHEREAS, leadership development training of VNRLI is based on the model of "leaders as principled convenors, facilitators, and stakeholders"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute for its many efforts to help build consensus and facilitate good environmental policy and leadership for the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of the Institute's many accomplishments and its dedication to environmental issue resolution.