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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 162

Offered February 25, 2022

Commending the Williamsburg Farmers Market.

Patron—Mason

WHEREAS, the Williamsburg Farmers Market, which was established in 2002 by its founding sponsors: the City of Williamsburg, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy, and the Merchants Square Association, celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Williamsburg Farmers Market has provided healthy, regionally produced food to individuals from all economic levels of the community, featuring more than 60 Virginia-based producer-vendors of vegetables, fruits, meats, seafood, mushrooms, nuts, honey, dairy products, wines, cider, baked goods, soups, jams, and pasta, as well as producer-vendors of flowers and plants, natural decorations, and soaps; and

WHEREAS, part of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Virginia Grown initiative, the Williamsburg Farmers Market has promoted sustainable agricultural and business practices in the region, stimulating the local farm economy and helping to preserve farmland in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, operating weekly at a premier location on Duke of Gloucester Street, the Williamsburg Farmers Market attracts more than 50,000 annual customers and produces in excess of \$1,000,000 in annual revenue among its vendors; and

WHEREAS, by offering scholarships for agricultural and market courses of study, the Williamsburg Farmers Market has fostered the growth and development of numerous vendors and aspiring farmers; and

WHEREAS, the Williamsburg Farmers Market has created a fun, educational venue that enhances the historic role of the Williamsburg town center through various activities, including local entertainment, a chef's tent featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients, and a "Power of Produce Club" to introduce young people to healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, by giving customers the opportunity to interact directly with those who grow, raise, catch, harvest, gather, cure, ferment, bake, and prepare the foods we eat, the Williamsburg Farmers Market has helped make the Commonwealth a wonderful place to live, work, and play; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Williamsburg Farmers Market on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mike Westfall, chair of the Williamsburg Farmers Market, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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