

Saturday, January 24

People have the right to vote on Bush resolution

Editor of the Refo,

The Truth and Reconciliation Resolution has qualified for the town ballot in March (Reformer, Jan. 13). This unique nonpartisan proposal has angered some impeachment advocates, but it enjoys support from Bush supporters and Bush opponents as well. Although more than two out of three Brattleboro voters interviewed signed to put the measure on the ballot, its success in March is not assured. That is why some explanation is owed to you members of Selectboard.

The people of Brattleboro certainly have the authority to make their opinions known on national issues, and there are precedents for this in resolutions that they have approved in recent years. The legal requirement is met. More than 500 people signed petitions to have this on the ballot, and last Monday the legal requirement of signatures was certified by Ms. Cappy, the town clerk. Article 3 section 2 of the town charter clearly states: The selectboard or the school directors, upon receipt of such petition, shall place the article on the warning for the next town or town school district meeting.

Now the board can place it on the ballot or make this a matter for the secretary of state or for the representative town meeting. But we hope the board won't choose any divisive obstructions because of a misunderstanding. Rather, please receive this letter in the same spirit of reconciliation as the proposal itself. The petitions followed both the letter and the spirit of the law. The people have asked to vote on this, and they have the right.

Tom Finnell,

Rebekah Murchison,

Larry Bloch

and Stephen Veryser,

Brattleboro, Jan. 22