

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the aviation and aerospace industry upon being the top industry exporter in the Commonwealth, and requesting an evaluation of the aviation infrastructure and the industry's current employment and total economic impact upon the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, in February 2014, Governor Steve Beshear announced that Kentucky's exports had broken records for the third consecutive year; and aerospace products lead Kentucky's export growth with \$5.6 billion, or almost two percent more than that of motor vehicles and parts; and

WHEREAS, as of 1998, aerospace and aviation in Kentucky was a \$10 billion industry that employed over 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has seen a 63 percent employee increase in the private aerospace products and parts manufacturing industry since 2002, and a 100 percent increase in the establishment of aerospace companies; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky-based plants, such as Messier-Bugatti-Dowty in Walton, Mazak Corporation in Florence, Indy Honeycomb in Covington, Meyer Tool, Incorporated in Erlanger, GE Engine in Madisonville, Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems in Danville, Roll Forming Corporation in Shelbyville, and Lockheed-Martin, Bluegrass Station in Lexington, have helped cement this industry among the state's economic fabric, creating not only jobs but also solidifying the Commonwealth as a destination for future aviation and aerospace producers that see the Bluegrass State as a potential destination to expand business; and in addition, many metric tons of industrial parts have been transported through the state's general aviation airports, although the exact tonnage is not known; and

WHEREAS, the strength of aviation and aerospace in Kentucky has created a need for more education about this thriving industry; and while there are only 67 high schools across the United States that teach aviation and aerospace, Kentucky has 25 of those high schools, placing its students at the forefront of this industry of the future; and

WHEREAS, many of the Commonwealth's postsecondary schools are also doing their part to ensure that future generations of Kentuckians are knowledgeable about aerospace, aviation, and advanced manufacturing, and that there is the proper workforce and specialized training available for aviation, aerospace, and manufacturing companies seeking to locate in Kentucky; these programs include Eastern Kentucky University's Professional Pilots Program, Morehead State University's Space Science Center and Labs, which is a research collaborative involving NASA, the University of Kentucky, and Somerset Community College's Aviation Maintenance Tech Program; and Embry-Riddle University and Jefferson Community College offer undergraduate and advanced degrees that make Kentucky the standard-bearer in the field of aviation and aerospace education; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Aerospace Education (IAE) is a nonprofit entity located in Frankfort that is devoted to improving student success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, or STEM, and aiding in the growth of aerospace careers in this Commonwealth; and IAE works with 23 high schools to provide hands-on experiences and to incorporate aviation studies into the curriculum in an attempt to demonstrate the relevance of STEM subjects to the students' potential careers in aviation and aerospace; and

WHEREAS, over 5,000 children have been taught the science and physics of flight through the official Aviation Museum of Kentucky and the history of Kentuckians in aviation and aerospace through the official Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame at Bluegrass Airport; and

WHEREAS, the aviation and aerospace industry continues to be a vital part of Kentucky's economy, its education, and its culture; and the strength of the industry and the essential role it plays in so many of Kentuckians' lives is a testament to its future in this Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The General Assembly honors the aviation and aerospace industry upon being the top industry exporter in the Commonwealth.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly requests the Transportation Cabinet and the Cabinet for Economic Development to evaluate the aviation infrastructure, the industry's current employment figures, and the total economic impact in the Commonwealth of the aviation and aerospace industry, and to report their findings to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit one copy of this Resolution to Mr. Mike Hancock, Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622; and one copy to Mr. Larry Hayes, Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, 300 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.