

A RESOLUTION urging the counties of Northeast Kentucky to establish a coalition between government and private industry leaders to design plans to entice employers to expand or locate their businesses in that region.

WHEREAS, AK Steel, a major employer in Ashland, announced in December 2015 an anticipated cut of over 600 jobs at its Boyd County facility; and

WHEREAS, CSX, a major employer in Greenup County, has cut over 100 positions from its local operations; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Kentucky is a known nexus between Ohio, the Great Lakes, West Virginia, and areas east of the Appalachians; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Kentucky has served as an incubator for successful enterprises including Armco, Ashland Culvert Works, and Ashland Oil and Refining Company; and

WHEREAS, the population of Northeast Kentucky is well-situated with education, structural, and social institutions capable of meeting the needs of employers in a multitude of occupational endeavors;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. Local leaders from state and county governments, organized labor, management, and concerned citizens are encouraged to form an economic development coalition to foster current and future employment opportunities in the region. The coalition is encouraged to meet regularly to develop, discuss, and execute plans to entice job retention in Northeast Kentucky to create a diverse business climate.