

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the bridge on Kentucky Route 90 over Lake Cumberland in Pulaski County as "The Houseboat Capital of the World Bridge."

WHEREAS, the boating industry generates over \$826 million annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Houseboat Magazine reported that the Lake Cumberland region of Kentucky produced more houseboats than any other area in the nation; and

WHEREAS, this particular bridge is an iconic gateway between two great Kentucky houseboat communities, Somerset and Monticello, and it overlooks the Lake Cumberland region representing, in sight alone, the natural beauty that the Houseboat Capital of the World has to offer; and

WHEREAS, there are several houseboat manufacturing companies in Kentucky, and one notable company, Sharpe Marine, also known as Somerset Houseboats, began in the late 1940s working on a design that would make houseboats a signature industry for Kentucky for the next 60 years plus; and

WHEREAS, Jim Sharpe of Somerset, Kentucky is credited with building the first houseboat in 1953, and that boat design served as the catalyst for the development of the modern houseboat industry as we know it today; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1990s, Kentucky's houseboat industry entered into international markets exporting houseboats made in Kentucky around the globe; and

WHEREAS, since then, thousands of houseboats have been built around the shores of Lake Cumberland, but Kentuckians, like the thousands of visitors who migrate to Kentucky every year, enjoy houseboating as a recreational opportunity too; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky is uniquely blessed with more navigable waters than any other state in the nation except Alaska, which makes Kentucky a wonderful destination for houseboaters and further supports Kentucky's boating and outdoor recreational tourism industry;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the bridge on Kentucky Route 90 over Lake Cumberland in Pulaski County as "The Houseboat Capital of the World Bridge," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect appropriate signage denoting this designation.