

1           A RESOLUTION honoring the work of the Kentucky Main Street Program and  
2 participating communities across the Commonwealth.

3           WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program was created in 1979 to address the  
4 economic decline experienced by many of Kentucky's downtown business districts in the  
5 late 20th century, and is the oldest statewide Main Street revitalization program in the  
6 nation; and

7           WHEREAS, the goal of Kentucky Main Street is to encourage downtown  
8 revitalization and economic development within the context of historic preservation,  
9 adaptive reuse, and preserving existing assets of architecturally and historically  
10 significant buildings; and

11           WHEREAS, the Main Street approach has proven successful in communities across  
12 the Commonwealth by advocating self-reliance, local empowerment, and the rebuilding  
13 of downtowns based on traditional assets: distinctive architecture, historic character, a  
14 pedestrian-friendly environment, personal service, local ownership, and a sense of place;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program is administered by the Kentucky  
17 Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office, and utilizes a grassroots,  
18 community-driven, comprehensive methodology developed by the National Trust for  
19 Historic Preservation, emphasizing good community design, effective promotion,  
20 sustainable organization, and economic vitality; and

21           WHEREAS, local Main Street programs benefit from services and technical  
22 assistance provided by the Kentucky Heritage Council including architectural design,  
23 historic rehabilitation tax credits, qualifying for the National Register of Historic Places,  
24 and grant programs when available; and

25           WHEREAS, Kentucky Main Street is at its core a self-help program, locally  
26 administered and funded through private investment partnered with public support, which  
27 achieves success by addressing a variety of issues that face traditional business districts

1 and re-establishing downtown as the community's focal point and center of activity; and

2 WHEREAS, participation in the Kentucky Main Street Program increases the tax  
3 base of communities by converting unoccupied or underutilized buildings into revenue-  
4 producing businesses, creates jobs, increases employment tax revenue, increases  
5 downtown property values, increases sales tax revenue from both new business and  
6 restoration and renovation construction materials, keeps dollars circulating locally that  
7 might have been spent elsewhere, and promises downtown as an attractive, active place  
8 that serves as the hub of community life and re-establishes downtown as the "heart" of the  
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, an economically healthy, attractive downtown attracts new businesses,  
11 industries, and residents; instills pride and commitment in the community; enhances  
12 quality of life; and increases heritage tourism; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2016 alone, 39 participating Kentucky Main Street communities  
14 cumulatively reported \$109,741,515 of investment (\$75,070,029 of private investment  
15 matched by \$30,920,494 in public improvements), 1,452 new jobs in Main Street  
16 districts, 234 new businesses created, 81 new housing units in downtowns, 198 building  
17 rehabilitation projects completed, and \$51,433,241 invested in historic building  
18 rehabilitation; and

19 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Kentucky Main Street Program has generated  
20 more than \$3.9 billion in public-private investment throughout the Commonwealth;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
23 ***Kentucky:***

24 ➔Section 1. The Senate does hereby honor the work of the Kentucky Main Street  
25 Program and its significant economic impact throughout the Commonwealth over nearly  
26 four decades.

27 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the

- 1 Kentucky Main Street Program and participating communities.
- 2       ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
- 3 Resolution to the Kentucky Heritage Council, Kentucky Main Street Program, 300
- 4 Washington Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.