

1 A RESOLUTION urging the Secretary of the Army and the Assistant Secretary of
2 the Army for Civil Works to direct the Nashville District of the United States Army
3 Corps of Engineers to expedite its review of the development of enhanced public access
4 and public recreation facilities at Lake Cumberland.

5 WHEREAS, Lake Cumberland is one of the most valuable economic and tourism
6 development tools for southern Kentucky, providing employment for thousands of
7 Kentuckians and recreational and tourism opportunities for over 1,000,000 visitors per
8 year; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the federal
10 government made a promise to the citizens of Russell County and southern Kentucky that
11 when thousands of acres of land were condemned to construct Lake Cumberland, the
12 federal Master Plan for the lake would designate 12 areas for commercial concessionaire
13 lease sites, with 75 percent of the rent paid by these leases returned to the counties in
14 which the leases resided as in-lieu-of taxes to compensate for the lost tax bases; and

15 WHEREAS, the Lake Cumberland region is still struggling to restore its economy
16 after the devastation incurred through the issues associated with Wolf Creek Dam and the
17 USACE's decision to drastically lower the lake for several years, resulting in numerous
18 bankruptcies, significant job losses throughout the Lake Cumberland region, and the loss
19 of state and local government revenue; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has directed the USACE to work diligently
21 with private partners in order to enhance and increase public access and public recreation
22 at USACE facilities across the country; and

23 WHEREAS, Lake Cumberland is under the jurisdiction of the Nashville District of
24 the USACE; and

25 WHEREAS, the Nashville District and its leadership over the past few years have
26 failed to heed Congressional direction to give due consideration to the economic damages
27 the Lake Cumberland region has incurred, to the businesses that have fallen, to the lost

1 jobs and, most importantly, to the private entrepreneurs wanting to invest their capital
2 into tourism and economic development projects; and

3 WHEREAS, as evidence of the Nashville District's failure to duly take into account
4 economic considerations of the region, Congress has passed three new laws regarding
5 expansion of fishing and recreation after the reconstruction of Wolf Creek Dam, because
6 the Nashville District decided to continue the low water levels and ban fishing below the
7 dam; and

8 WHEREAS, the Nashville District has also fought other economic and tourism
9 development efforts in a consistent manner that has only furthered the continued
10 economic issues and losses of revenue that the local governments of the region are facing,
11 while ignoring the mandates of the United States Congress to enhance public recreation
12 opportunities and public access at USACE facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, the Nashville District continues to block a significant economic and
14 tourism development project in Russell County that a private entrepreneur has been
15 working on for almost two years to provide a new investment of at least \$10,000,000 to
16 expand a marina to use an abandoned site and other complimentary facilities, which
17 would greatly enhance the public access and public recreation opportunities at this
18 underserved portion of Lake Cumberland; and

19 WHEREAS, officials of the Nashville District have intimated their intention to not
20 approve this expansion request, even without giving due consideration to the application;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, this failure to work with private partners to encourage new
23 developments, new investments, and significant enhancements for public access and
24 public recreation, as the United States Congress has directed and as the federal
25 government promised many years ago, is costing local governments revenue that would
26 support schools and other local government responsibilities;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
2 *Kentucky:*

3 ➔Section 1. The Senate respectfully urges the Secretary of the United States
4 Army, the Honorable Mark T. Esper, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil
5 Works, the Honorable R. D. James, to expedite and oversee the review and decisions
6 associated with the development of enhanced public access and public recreation facilities
7 at Lake Cumberland, including the 12 recreation sites identified in the lake's Master Plan.

8 ➔Section 2. The Senate respectfully urges this action to take place as soon as
9 possible, as it is apparent that the Nashville District does not intend to move forward in a
10 timely manner with a review and fair decision regarding this significant private
11 investment that greatly enhances the public access and public recreation opportunities in
12 Russell County and throughout Lake Cumberland.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate shall send a copy of this Resolution and
14 notification of its adoption to the President of the United States, the Honorable Donald J.
15 Trump; the Secretary of the United States Army, the Honorable Mark T. Esper; the
16 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable R. D. James; and the
17 members of the Kentucky Congressional delegation.