

1           A RESOLUTION proclaiming March 3, 2020, as Kentucky Natural Lands  
2 Awareness Day.

3           WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has funded the conservation of nearly 95,000 acres  
4 in 165 projects statewide through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund since  
5 1994, consisting of areas to be preserved in their natural state for the protection of our  
6 state's natural heritage, public enjoyment, outdoor recreation and education; and

7           WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands protect important water resources across the  
8 state that rank fourth nationally in aquatic biodiversity, including approximately 245  
9 native fishes, over 100 different kinds of freshwater mussels, and nearly 60 species of  
10 crayfish, all of which provide important healthy-stream functions such as water  
11 purification and flood control buffers; and

12           WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands are critical to support healthy and diverse  
13 forests and habitat for our most rare and endangered species, as well as the state's most  
14 natural scenic wonders from Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve in Harlan County to  
15 the Audubon State Park in Henderson County; and

16           WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands enhance important historical landmarks such  
17 as the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park in Larue County, which  
18 includes 225 acres funded by the Kentucky Heritage Land Fund at Lincoln's Boyhood  
19 Home, and which was visited by over 260,000 tourists in the past year and provides over  
20 \$20 million in benefits and 227 jobs to the local economy; and

21           WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands protect important historic sites in Kentucky  
22 from Blue Licks Battlefield in Nicholas County to the William Whitley House in Lincoln  
23 County, both of which benefit from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund; and

24           WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands provide educational opportunities for  
25 Kentuckians from Clay Hill Memorial Forest in Taylor County to the Lilley Cornett  
26 Woods in Letcher County, both of which benefit from the Kentucky Heritage Land  
27 Conservation Fund; and

1 WHEREAS, Mammoth Cave National Park visitors spent \$45 million in 2018,  
2 helping support nearly 600 local jobs and generate \$61.6 million into nearby economies,  
3 including the Green River that is protected by the Kentucky Wild Rivers Program; and

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands are an important corridor for migratory birds,  
5 bringing in an estimated 827,000 birdwatchers to our rural communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands provide non-consumptive wildlife-watching  
7 recreation for 1.3 million people in the Commonwealth, providing an estimated \$773  
8 million to local economies; and

9 WHEREAS, Kentucky's natural lands are important components for tourism  
10 initiatives that bring national recognition to Kentucky, including the Pine Mountain State  
11 Scenic Trail and Bernheim/Fort Knox Wildlands Corridor, as well as providing thousands  
12 of miles of passive recreational trails; and

13 WHEREAS, the 2019 Kentucky Outdoor Recreation Economy Report indicates that  
14 Kentucky generates a total of \$12.8 billion in consumer spending, 120,000 in direct jobs,  
15 \$3.6 billion in wages, and \$756 million in taxes annually from outdoor recreation;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

19 ➔Section 1. This honorable body acknowledges the significant contribution of  
20 Kentucky's Natural Lands and proclaims March 3, 2020, as Kentucky Natural Lands  
21 Awareness Day.

22 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send a copy  
23 of this Resolution and notification of its adoption to Lane Boldman, executive director of  
24 the Kentucky Conservation Committee, PO Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602, and Zeb  
25 Weese, chair of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Board, 300 Sower Boulevard,  
26 4th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.