A RESOLUTION declaring April 22, 2020, as Environmental Education Day in Kentucky and honoring the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

WHEREAS, April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day; and

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day in 1970 included teach-ins across the country focused on environmental education; and

WHEREAS, environmental education builds emotional and social skills including self-esteem, character development, teamwork and leadership skills, and climate literacy by encouraging students to research and think critically about complex environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, environmental education improves overall academic performance by boosting test scores and by embracing many other disciplines such as science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, engineering, fine arts, and technology; and

WHEREAS, outdoor learning may contribute to great long-term retention of academic material through hands-on, experiential learning; and

WHEREAS, green schoolyards promote physical health by providing many active and cooperative play options for children of different abilities, ages, and genders; and

WHEREAS, healthy school meals support brain power with vitamins and nutrients needed for focus and energy, promote healthy eating habits even outside of the classroom, and decrease childhood obesity rates; and

WHEREAS, environment education prepares students for careers in green and STEM industries, which are high in demand, and expected to grow in the future so as to contribute to economic development; and

WHEREAS, environmental education promotes civic engagement and environmental awareness, fostering an ability to participate in lifelong environmental decision making and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, environmental education continues to gain support from individuals, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, governments, and commercial
enterprises across the world;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Senate hereby declares April 22, 2020, as Environmental Education Day in Kentucky, and encourages educators and schools to conduct activities so students will understand the importance of these practices.

Section 2. The Senate honors the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020.

Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Morgan McGarvey.