

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the work of the Kentucky Main Street Program and its
2 twenty-eight participating communities.

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 and is
5 the oldest statewide Main Street revitalization program in the nation; and

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

10 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic stunted the economy in mid-March of 2020
11 and caused 27 Kentucky Main Street communities to lose 1,344 jobs and 231 businesses;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, local Main Street directors were essential to helping businesses adapt
14 to COVID-19 restrictions by creating open-air retail and dining spaces, shifting to online
15 sales, applying for financial aid; and

16 WHEREAS, participating programs reported a cumulative \$45,501,384 of
17 investment in downtown commercial districts, 842 net new jobs, 122 net new businesses,
18 66 rehabilitation projects, and 22,299 volunteer hours invested; and

19 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program has generated nearly \$4.9 billion in
20 investments throughout the Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program and local Main Street
22 organizations played a vital role helping small businesses through the COVID-19
23 pandemic and are committed to supporting businesses in a changing economy; and

24 WHEREAS, the Main Street approach advocates self-reliance, local empowerment,
25 and for the rebuilding of downtown areas based on traditional assets like distinctive
26 architecture, historic character, pedestrian-friendly environments, personal service,
27 locally-owned businesses, and a sense of place; and

1 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program is administered by the Kentucky
2 Heritage Council and utilizes the grassroots methodology of the Main Street America
3 program from the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and

4 WHEREAS, local Main Street programs benefit from services and technical
5 assistance provided by the Kentucky Heritage Council, including assistance with
6 architectural design and applying for historic rehabilitation tax credits, the National
7 Register of Historic Places, and grant programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Kentucky Main Street programs are locally administered and funded
9 through private investment partnered with public support to address issues that face main
10 streets as a business district and as a community's center of activity; and

11 WHEREAS, by converting unoccupied and underutilized buildings into revenue-
12 producing businesses, the Kentucky Main Street Program increases the tax revenue,
13 creates jobs, improves property values, keeps a community's money circulating within the
14 community, and re-establishes downtown as the heart of a community; and

15 WHEREAS, a healthy, vibrant downtown attracts new businesses, industries, and
16 residents, while instilling pride in the community, enhancing quality of life, and
17 increasing heritage tourism;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

21 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors the work of the Kentucky Main Street
22 Program and its significant economic impact throughout the Commonwealth, especially
23 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

24 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day it does so in honor of the
25 Kentucky Main Street Program and participating communities.

26 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
27 Resolution to the Kentucky Heritage Council, 410 High Street, Frankfort, Kentucky

1 40601.