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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Main Street approach advocates self-reliance, local empowerment,
and for the rebuilding of downtown areas based on traditional assets like distinctive
architecture, historic character, pedestrian-friendly environments, personal service,
locally-owned businesses, and a sense of place; and
WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program is administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council and utilizes the grassroots methodology of the Main Street America program from the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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