

1 A RESOLUTION expressing sympathy to the citizens of the Commonwealth
2 affected by the historic December 2021 tornado outbreak and honoring the many acts of
3 courage and kindness provided to the impacted communities by citizens of the
4 Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, on December 10 and 11, 2021, a historic tornado outbreak, including a
6 violent tornado that covered 165.7 miles, moved across multiple states, including a
7 majority of western Kentucky, and produced severe to catastrophic damage in numerous
8 communities; and

9 WHEREAS, these tornadoes were responsible for killing at least 77 Kentuckians,
10 including 12 children and an infant, and leaving countless people in those communities
11 injured and without homes, jobs, or even minimal necessities; and

12 WHEREAS, the impact of the tornado outbreak was vast in Barren, Caldwell,
13 Christian, Fulton, Graves, Hart, Hickman, Hopkins, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Marshall,
14 Muhlenberg, Ohio, Taylor, and Warren Counties, with Taylor County experiencing
15 another strong tornado that damaged numerous properties just three weeks later; and

16 WHEREAS, immediately after the tornadoes touched down, community members,
17 without solicitation or regard for their own needs and situations, began to do what they do
18 best: provide support to their fellow Kentuckians; and

19 WHEREAS, community members almost instantly went door to door to check on
20 friends, families, and neighbors, and in multiple instances dug through debris for days to
21 get victims and their beloved pets to safety; and

22 WHEREAS, within hours after the tornadoes touched down, many schools,
23 businesses, and churches opened their facilities as temporary shelters and were helping
24 with rescue efforts, and citizens also drove to devastated homes to offer victims
25 transportation to these temporary shelters; and

26 WHEREAS, there were countless examples of selfless individuals taking care of the
27 community, including community members from across the state providing hundreds of

1 free meals to displaced Kentuckians; and

2 WHEREAS, wherever community members saw a need, they were there to help,
3 including gathering donations, setting up donation sites, and helping families in need find
4 new homes, appliances, and furnishings; and

5 WHEREAS, in the hours, days, and weeks that followed, fellow Kentuckians and
6 others gave generously of time, money, and resources with far-reaching acts of kindness
7 coming from across the state, the nation, and the world, including conducting search and
8 rescue efforts, providing shelter, and donating money and necessities; and

9 WHEREAS, within hours of the tragedy, financial donations started pouring into
10 the communities, and caravans of school buses, vans, trucks, and cars loaded with
11 supplies came from all regions of the state; and

12 WHEREAS, amid the deep sadness and devastation that continues to affect victims
13 months later, Kentuckians statewide and Americans nationwide continue to pull together
14 to aid victims and their families, reaffirming the strength, kindness, and resilience of the
15 people of the Commonwealth and this nation;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

19 ➔Section 1. The Senate extends its utmost gratitude to every person who so
20 selflessly and without solicitation assisted the citizens of the Commonwealth who were
21 impacted by the devastating tornadoes and who gave of their time and resources
22 alongside first responders, private agencies, churches, businesses, manufacturers,
23 organizations, and other individuals.

24 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
25 Resolution to Senator Whitney Westerfield.