

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Tom FitzGerald for his years of service to the Kentucky
2 Resources Council.

3 WHEREAS, Tom FitzGerald was born and raised in New York, New York, and
4 attended Roger Williams College, Bristol, Rhode Island. He found his way to Kentucky
5 upon receiving a gift from his brother, the book "Night Comes to the Cumberlands."
6 Upon receiving his Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky's College of Law in
7 1980, he was a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow with the Appalachian
8 Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky; and

9 WHEREAS, while Tom FitzGerald was representing landowners battling coal
10 companies through his work at the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, he decided
11 to step out on his own in 1984 and create the Kentucky Resources Council. The Kentucky
12 Resources Council is a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization providing free
13 legal, strategic and policy assistance to individuals, organizations and communities
14 concerning environmental quality, resource extraction, energy, and utility issues; and

15 WHEREAS, Tom FitzGerald has been a fixture of the Capitol halls since the late
16 1970s, and while he has always been at the forefront of environmental and consumer
17 protection issues, he is also well known for the condition of his old, scuffed-up, brown
18 wingtip shoes. After a joke with Representative Herbie Deskins, from Pikeville, Tom
19 FitzGerald decided to wait until good environmental bills were passed before shining his
20 shoes; and

21 WHEREAS, Tom FitzGerald was able to shine those brown wingtip shoes upon
22 passage of a bill that raised landfill standards and made Kentucky a less economically
23 viable option for companies' refuse. The second time he was able to shine his shoes was
24 in the early 2000s when a bill passed that placed a fee on solid waste disposal which was
25 used to fund the closure of old polluting city dumps and support litter pickup programs.
26 Other legislation that the Kentucky Resources Council and Tom FitzGerald were
27 successful in helping get passed were creating a new Public Service Commission siting

1 board to approve new power plant sites and a net metering bill to allow homes and
2 business owners with solar panels to receive a one-for-one credit energy added to the
3 electric grid; and

4 WHEREAS, while Tom FitzGerald may be retiring from the Kentucky Resources
5 Council, he is confident that with expanding the board and hiring new staff, the Kentucky
6 Resources Council will continue and become stronger;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

10 ➔Section 1. The Senate honors Tom FitzGerald for his years of dedicated work
11 protecting the environment and citizens of Kentucky from unfair practices of utility
12 companies.

13 ➔Section 2. The Senate recognizes that Tom FitzGerald has been a one-man army
14 for the environment within Frankfort for the last 40-plus years and extends well wishes
15 on the next "good trouble" proposal to engage communities and individuals in getting
16 involved in environmental decision-making at the local and state level.

17 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
18 Resolution to Senator Denise Harper Angel for delivery.