

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Multimodal Freight  
2 Transportation System Improvement Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky's unique geographical location makes it an ideal hub for the  
4 transportation of goods by highway, rail, river, and air; and

5 WHEREAS, Kentucky, located within a day's drive of two-thirds of the U.S.  
6 population at the center of a 34-state distribution area in the eastern United States, has a  
7 location advantage that facilitates the distribution of goods and materials to a massive  
8 industrial and consumer market; and

9 WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks 2nd in the nation in total air cargo shipments and is  
10 home to three global shipping hubs (UPS World Port, DHL Americas hub, and Amazon  
11 Air global port), resources that put Kentucky at the heart of the global stream of  
12 commerce; and

13 WHEREAS, Kentucky has over 1,400 miles of interstates and limited-access,  
14 interstate grade parkways, to facilitate the free flow of commerce, including Interstates 65  
15 and 75, two of the most vital freight corridors in the nation; and

16 WHEREAS, Kentucky, which ranks 4th in the nation with 1,020 miles of  
17 commercially navigable waterways, is surrounded on three sides by the commercially  
18 navigable rivers of the Mississippi, Ohio, and Big Sandy River, and also the Tennessee,  
19 Cumberland, Green and Licking Rivers which are able to move freight, giving the  
20 Commonwealth great advantages in being at the center of a vast inland waterways  
21 network and at the confluence of several critical inland waterway routes; and

22 WHEREAS, Kentucky's 2,562 railroad miles, and 13 railroads, including two Class  
23 1 railroads, are the fourth key component in the multimodal freight transportation  
24 network; and

25 WHEREAS, the development of business models around "just in time" inventory  
26 overnight delivery and the rapid transportation of freight has strained our nation's supply  
27 chain over the last few years; and

1           WHEREAS, improvements to Kentucky's multimodal freight transportation system  
2 will require careful analysis and targeted public investment, which, if done properly,  
3 could yield tremendous economic benefit for the entire Commonwealth;

4           NOW, THEREFORE,

5 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
6 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

7           ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Multimodal  
8 Freight Transportation System Improvement Task Force. The task force shall study and  
9 make recommendations regarding:

10           (1) Ports, freight, and air terminals, to review, correct, secure, and expand  
11 economic development opportunities, including ports for bulk river and rail service, as  
12 well as transit terminals for trucking and air freight;

13           (2) The state of the current freight transportation system to identify both gaps  
14 where services are not available and existing facilities where backlogs exist and  
15 expansion is warranted; and

16           (3) Funding opportunities, both one-time and recurring, that are available or may  
17 be necessary to fund improvements and maintain the system.

18           ➔Section 2. The task force shall be composed of the following members, with  
19 final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the  
20 Legislative Research Commission:

21           (1) Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of  
22 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the  
23 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;

24           (2) Five members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, one of  
25 whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;

26           (3) The Secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development, or the secretary's  
27 designee;

- 1           (4) The Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet, or the secretary's designee; and  
2           (5) The Commissioner of the Department of Aviation, or the commissioner's  
3 designee.

4           ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet as necessary during the 2023 Interim of the  
5 General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to the  
6 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees  
7 by December 1, 2023.

8           ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
9 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the  
10 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof and to  
11 designate a study completion date.