

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the 100th anniversary of Kentucky State Parks.

2 WHEREAS, in 1924, the citizens of Bell County, Kentucky, had a vision of
3 establishing a state park that would attract tourism to improve their local economy; and

4 WHEREAS, the 1924 Kentucky General Assembly created the Kentucky State Park
5 Commission to search for available state park sites in Kentucky; and

6 WHEREAS, the first state park site was Cumberland State Park which was renamed
7 in 1938 to Pine Mountain State Park. Three other parks-Natural Bridge State Park,
8 Pioneer Memorial State Park, and Blue-Gray State Park- quickly followed; and

9 WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Parks system blossomed from the 1940s to 1970s
10 with expansion throughout the state; and

11 WHEREAS, 13 parks were created in the early 1960s in an effort to create the
12 largest state resort park system in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Kentucky State Parks have grown to 45 parks, 17 of which are resorts
14 with overnight lodging and dining; and

15 WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Parks system also has eight historic sites, 13 golf
16 courses, 34 pools and beaches, 15 marinas, 30 campgrounds, and 48,000 acres with more
17 than 300 miles of hiking trails; and

18 WHEREAS, Kentucky State Parks have provided a safe haven for Kentuckians who
19 were displaced by natural disasters, first as shelter for victims of the 1937 Ohio River
20 flood, and again in 2021 as shelter for the victims of the deadly tornadoes that struck
21 western Kentucky; and

22 WHEREAS, the mission of Kentucky State Parks is to provide a system of parks
23 that delivers quality programs, amenities, and services that create memorable experiences
24 and a sense of place; contributes to the economic growth of the Commonwealth; and
25 preserves the historic and natural integrity and traditions of our parks for existing and
26 future generations; and

27 WHEREAS, Kentucky State Parks reflect the values of all Kentuckians who believe

1 in restoring and maintaining the history, sense of community, economic growth, and
2 traditions of the Commonwealth;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
5 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

6 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes and celebrates the
7 100th anniversary of the establishment of Kentucky State Parks and their rich history of
8 delivering quality amenities and services and preserving the historic and natural integrity
9 of the Commonwealth.

10 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
11 copy of this Resolution to Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo.