

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the work of the Kentucky Main Street Program and its  
2 participating communities.

3 WHEREAS, in 1979, the Kentucky Main Street Program was developed by the  
4 Kentucky Heritage Council to address the economic decline experienced by many of  
5 Kentucky's downtown business districts, and is the oldest statewide Main Street  
6 revitalization program in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, the goal of the Kentucky Main Street Program is to encourage  
8 economic development and downtown revitalization within the context of historic  
9 preservation, adaptive reuse, and preservation of existing assets of architecturally and  
10 historically significant buildings along with the cultural heritage of a community; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2023, participating programs reported a cumulative \$61 million of  
12 investment in downtown commercial districts, 393 net new full-time jobs, 256 part-time  
13 jobs, 126 net new businesses, and 223 historic building rehabilitation projects; and

14 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program, since its inception, has generated  
15 nearly \$4.8 billion in public-private investments throughout the Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, the Main Street approach advocates self-reliance, local empowerment,  
17 and the rebuilding of downtown areas based on traditional assets like locally owned  
18 businesses, distinctive architecture, historic character, pedestrian-friendly environments,  
19 personal service, and a sense of place; and

20 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program is administered by the Kentucky  
21 Heritage Council and utilizes the grassroots 4-point approach of the Main Street America  
22 Program, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and

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

27 WHEREAS, Kentucky Main Street programs are locally administered and funded

1 through private investment partnered with public support to address issues that face main  
2 streets as a business district and as a community's center of activity; and

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

7 WHEREAS, healthy, vibrant downtowns attract new businesses, industries, and  
8 residents, while instilling pride in the community, enhancing quality of life, and  
9 increasing heritage tourism;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

13 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors the work of the Kentucky Main Street  
14 Program and its significant economic impact throughout the Commonwealth.

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

17 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
18 Resolution to the Kentucky Heritage Council, 410 High Street, Frankfort, Kentucky  
19 40601.