

1       A RESOLUTION adjourning the House of Representatives in honor of Kentucky's  
2 rural electric cooperative utility workers who provided vital support during the deadly  
3 tornado that devastated Kentucky on May 16, 2025.

4       WHEREAS, On May 16, 2025, a deadly severe weather breakout spawned  
5 devastating tornadoes causing significant damage in Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, and  
6 Arkansas, with Kentucky experiencing peak winds estimated at 179 miles per hour; and

7       WHEREAS, on that evening, an EF-4 tornado nearly a mile wide ripped through  
8 parts of south central and eastern Kentucky along its 55.6-mile path, which severely  
9 impacted Laurel, Pulaski, and Russell Counties; and

10       WHEREAS, this devastating storm left 19 Kentuckians dead, many others  
11 hospitalized, and tens of thousands of homes and businesses without vital power due to  
12 extensive damage to electric distribution and transmission infrastructure, including  
13 downed poles, broken conductors, damaged substations, and destroyed transmission  
14 structures; and

15       WHEREAS, this was the deadliest tornado to ever be reported in the region; and

16       WHEREAS, the storm directly hit South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative's  
17 headquarters in Somerset, rendering its supervisory control and data acquisition system  
18 and outage management system inoperable and heavily damaging its distribution system;  
19 and

20       WHEREAS, in total, dozens of distribution substations and electric circuits were  
21 severely impacted at the peak of the storm, while hundreds of power poles were broken  
22 and many miles of power line were knocked down; and

23       WHEREAS, crews from electric cooperatives and mutual-aid partners immediately  
24 mobilized, deploying skilled line and substation personnel throughout the region, and  
25 organized into multiple crews who tirelessly worked around the clock, often in darkness,  
26 severe weather, and debris-filled environments, putting public safety and community  
27 recovery ahead of their own comfort and rest; and

1 WHEREAS, by May 19, 2025, despite extreme fatigue and dangerous conditions,  
2 crews fully restored life-saving electricity to the residents impacted by this terrible storm,  
3 as well as to the businesses and manufacturing companies that support those  
4 communities; and

5 WHEREAS, linemen, substation technicians, engineers, dispatchers, and support  
6 staff selflessly devoted several thousand man-hours to restore emergency power during  
7 this brief but critical time period alone; and

8 WHEREAS, rural electric cooperative utility workers' skill, courage, teamwork, and  
9 unwavering commitment exemplifies the highest ideals of public service and the  
10 cooperative spirit upon which Kentucky's electric system is built;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
13 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

14 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby express their  
15 appreciation for the dedicated service, rapid deployment, and life-saving actions of the  
16 rural electric cooperative utility workers during and after the deadly storm on May 16,  
17 2025.

18 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in  
19 honor of the service of Kentucky's rural electric cooperatives' utility workers.

20 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
21 copy of this Resolution to Representative Derek Lewis for delivery to East Kentucky  
22 Power Cooperative, Big Rivers Electric Corporation, and Tennessee Valley Authority  
23 and their owner-member rural electric cooperatives.