

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the development and construction of the East
2 Kentucky Disaster Relief Center at Bear Mountain near Pikeville, Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, eastern Kentucky has experienced an increase in the occurrence and
4 severity of natural disasters, including catastrophic flooding, mudslides, ice storms, and
5 other extreme weather events; and

6 WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks among the most disaster-impacted states in the nation,
7 with eight of the ten counties with the highest number of federal major disaster
8 declarations between 2011 and 2023 located in the Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes an urgent need for a
10 strategically located, well-equipped regional disaster relief center to ensure rapid
11 response, efficient supply distribution, and support for displaced individuals; and

12 WHEREAS, research shows that every dollar spent on disaster mitigation and
13 resilience can return up to \$13 in benefits through avoided damages, reduced disruptions,
14 and faster recovery; and

15 WHEREAS, one of the recommendations of the General Assembly's 2025 Disaster
16 Prevention and Resiliency Task Force was to expand community resilience and
17 mitigation efforts by identifying current state resources and existing local resilience hubs
18 and by creating new hubs as needed to support preparedness, resilience, and mitigation
19 projects at the local level; and

20 WHEREAS, Bear Mountain would be a safe, secure, and effective site for a
21 centralized disaster relief hub in eastern Kentucky, as it offers multiple connections to
22 major north-south and east-west corridors, a centralized location allowing for rapid
23 response to multiple counties, and a large buildable site supporting scalable
24 infrastructure; and

25 WHEREAS, the planned East Kentucky Disaster Relief Center at Bear Mountain is
26 expected to consist of helicopter landing sites, recreational vehicle hook-ups, a
27 communication center, a distribution facility, a command center which will include

1 emergency shelter space, and a clinic equipped with basic first aid supplies; and

2 WHEREAS, the University of Pikeville plans to facilitate the operation of the
3 disaster relief center in cooperation with the surrounding community through mutually
4 beneficial agreements with local law enforcement and first responders who work so
5 diligently to keep the citizens of eastern Kentucky safe; and

6 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the work that the University
7 of Pikeville is doing to bring this disaster relief center to Bear Mountain and to ensure the
8 preparedness and resiliency of eastern Kentucky;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

10 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
11 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

12 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives recognize the
13 importance and urgent need for disaster preparedness, mitigation, and resiliency efforts
14 throughout the Commonwealth and encourage the development and construction of the
15 East Kentucky Disaster Relief Center at Bear Mountain near Pikeville, Kentucky.

16 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
17 copy of this Resolution to Representative Tackett Laferty for delivery to the University of
18 Pikeville.