

1       A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the University of Kentucky and the  
2 University of Louisville to explore opportunities to participate in federal nuclear-related  
3 programs and to expand their curricula to offer courses and degree paths to train the  
4 workforce that will construct and operate the next generation of nuclear energy facilities.

5       WHEREAS, with the passage of Senate Bill 11 in 2017, the General Assembly  
6 lifted the moratorium on the construction of new nuclear power facilities that had been in  
7 place for decades; and

8       WHEREAS, interest in developing the nuclear energy ecosystem in Kentucky has  
9 never been greater for many reasons, including but not limited to the momentum created  
10 by the convening of the Nuclear Energy Development Working Group and the  
11 recommendations it produced for the establishment of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy  
12 Development Authority; and

13       WHEREAS, the emergence of promising new nuclear technologies, including small  
14 modular reactors, may be useful in a range of applications in the Commonwealth; and

15       WHEREAS, there is increasing need for new baseload energy generation to be sited  
16 in the Commonwealth in order to maintain the resiliency and reliability of the electric  
17 grid; and

18       WHEREAS, there are 25 university research nuclear reactors located across the  
19 United States, including at universities in the neighboring states of Missouri, Indiana, and  
20 Ohio; and

21       WHEREAS, universities with research nuclear reactors and universities that have  
22 sharing agreements with those universities are eligible for research funding from the  
23 United States Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program; and

24       WHEREAS, cutting-edge nuclear research is being conducted at these universities,  
25 including at Texas A&M University, where in February 2025, the university offered land  
26 to four nuclear power companies to construct and test the latest prototypes of small  
27 modular reactors; and

1        WHEREAS, the Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky and the  
2    Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville already use various radioactive  
3    isotopes in their radiopharmaceuticals to treat metastatic neuroendocrine tumors and  
4    prostate cancer, with researchers also conducting clinical trials to possibly expand their  
5    use to treatment of breast, colon, head and neck, lung, pancreatic, and other cancers; and

6        WHEREAS, as part of the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem in the  
7    Commonwealth, universities should take a lead role in exploring opportunities to  
8    participate in the latest nuclear energy research and expand their course offerings to  
9    contribute to the development of the nuclear energy workforce in the Commonwealth;

10        NOW, THEREFORE,

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

13        ➔Section 1. The General Assembly urges the University of Kentucky and the  
14    University of Louisville to explore opportunities to participate in the United States  
15    Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program and to expand their curricula  
16    to offer courses and degree paths to train the workforce that will construct and operate the  
17    next generation of nuclear energy facilities.

18        ➔Section 2. The General Assembly further encourages the University of  
19    Kentucky and the University of Louisville to engage and collaborate with the United  
20    States Department of War to explore possible nuclear energy-related grant funding and  
21    research opportunities that may become available as the universities expand their  
22    contributions to the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem in the Commonwealth.

23        ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
24    Resolution and notification of its passage to Eli Capilouto, President, University of  
25    Kentucky, 101 Main Building, Lexington, Kentucky 40506, and Gerry Bradley,  
26    President, University of Louisville, Grawemeyer Hall, Suite 102, Louisville, Kentucky  
27    40292.