

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.