

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor of Kentucky's rural electric
2 cooperative utility workers who provided vital support during the deadly tornado that
3 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 Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
13 ***Kentucky:***

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

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

19 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
20 Resolution to Senator Brandon Storm for delivery to East Kentucky Power Cooperative,
21 Big Rivers Electric Corporation, and Tennessee Valley Authority and their owner-
22 member rural electric cooperatives.