

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Scotia Mine Disaster in  
2 Letcher County.

3           WHEREAS, on March 9, 1976, shortly after 11:30 a.m., an explosion occurred in  
4 Mine No. 1 at the Scotia Coal Mining site at Black Mountain, Kentucky, killing 15  
5 people; and

6           WHEREAS, two days later, as members of the community worked to rescue the  
7 trapped miners, a second explosion occurred, claiming 11 more lives; and

8           WHEREAS, these two explosions combined resulted in one of the worst coal  
9 mining disasters in United States History; and

10          WHEREAS, the 26 victims of these two explosions were beloved members of their  
11 communities in eastern Kentucky, and their loss was felt across the region; and

12          WHEREAS, due to the instability of the conditions in the mines, the bodies of the  
13 victims were unable to be recovered for several months, forcing families to mourn their  
14 loved ones with empty caskets and resulting in protests to reopen the mines for body  
15 recovery; and

16          WHEREAS, the lessons learned from these two explosions helped to reshape mine  
17 safety regulations for years to come, as regulators and industry professionals came to  
18 better understand how poorly ventilated air moves and can become trapped underground;  
19 and

20          WHEREAS, the tragedy of the Scotia Mine explosions led to the Federal Mine  
21 Safety and Health Act of 1977 and still informs regulations surrounding mine safety and  
22 working conditions to this day; and

23          WHEREAS, because of the sacrifices of those miners and their families, miners  
24 today work in much safer conditions, with extra precautions such as fireproof shelters,  
25 emergency rations, and oxygen supplies; and

26          WHEREAS, while their loss remains an unforgettable tragedy, their legacy left on  
27 the mining industry remains, saving hundreds if not thousands of lives over the last 50

1 years due to the improved working conditions in mines across eastern Kentucky and  
2 throughout the United States;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
5 *Kentucky:*

6 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby recognize the 50th anniversary of  
7 the Scotia Mine Disaster in Letcher County, and honor the memory of the 26 lives lost,  
8 and the legacy of improved mine safety they leave even to this day.

9 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the 26  
10 victims, their families, and the rescuers of the Scotia Mine Disaster of 1976.

11 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
12 Resolution to Senator Scott Madon.