

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
2 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE),
4 established in 1976, operated as an all-volunteer organization throughout its early
5 decades and has successfully advanced environmental education in the Commonwealth;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, KAEE has demonstrated strong leadership through a flexible
8 governance structure, an active board, national affiliation, and partnerships with higher
9 education to support teacher preparation and professional development; and

10 WHEREAS, KAEE has conducted 49 annual statewide conferences, connecting
11 educators with Kentucky's diverse natural resources and strengthening environmental
12 literacy and experiential learning; and

13 WHEREAS, KAEE has collaborated with federal and state agencies to align
14 environmental education with academic standards; and

15 WHEREAS, KAEE's 1989 report, "An Uncommon Opportunity: An
16 Environmentally Literate Kentucky," informed the General Assembly's creation of the
17 Kentucky Environmental Education Council in 1990; and

18 WHEREAS, subsequent legislation in 1994 expanded funding for environmental
19 education and land conservation; and

20 WHEREAS, KAEE's transition to professional staffing has enabled program
21 growth, including during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

22 WHEREAS, KAEE staff and volunteers have strengthened statewide environmental
23 education through various initiatives, including Kentucky Green Schools, professional
24 development programs, national curriculum partnerships, and the eeFacilitator Network;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, environmental education supports Kentucky's workforce and enhances
27 public appreciation of the Commonwealth's natural resources;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
3 *Kentucky:*

4 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors the Kentucky Association for
5 Environmental Education (KAEE) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

6 ➔Section 2. The Senate recognizes KAEE for its exemplary governance, long-
7 term organizational planning, and service to environmental education.

8 ➔Section 3. The Senate encourages continued collaboration among KAEE, state
9 agencies, universities, and community partners to expand high-quality environmental
10 education for all ages and communities.

11 ➔Section 4. The Senate commends KAEE's past and present presidents and
12 board members for five decades of service.

13 ➔Section 5. The Senate encourages public participation in the 2026 annual
14 conference in Lexington, Kentucky, from November 12th through the 14th.

15 ➔Section 6. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit six copies of this
16 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for presentation to KAEE Chair Louis Ross, KAEE
17 Executive Director Ashley Hoffman, Secretary Jamie Link of the Kentucky Education
18 and Labor Cabinet, Secretary Rebecca Goodman of the Energy and Environment
19 Cabinet, and Chair Aaron Thompson of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary
20 Education.