

1 A RESOLUTION endorsing the Ohio River Restoration Program Act to support
2 clean water, healthy fish and wildlife populations, economic development, and expanded
3 recreation opportunities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

4 WHEREAS, the Ohio River Restoration Program Act, House Resolution 5966 and
5 Senate Bill 3796, has been introduced in the United States Congress with bipartisan
6 support; and

7 WHEREAS, the Ohio River is one of the most significant rivers in the United
8 States, with a watershed that spans 15 states and provides drinking water, recreation, and
9 commercial opportunities for more than 30 million people; and

10 WHEREAS, the Ohio River forms Kentucky's northern border for approximately
11 664 miles, representing the longest Ohio River frontage of any state and touching
12 numerous Kentucky communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the Ohio River is a primary source of drinking water for hundreds of
14 thousands of Kentuckians, serving public water systems that supply communities
15 throughout northern, central, and western Kentucky; and

16 WHEREAS, the Ohio River and its tributaries drain a substantial portion of the
17 Commonwealth's land and are critical to Kentucky's agricultural productivity, industrial
18 operations, energy production, and municipal infrastructure; and

19 WHEREAS, Kentucky's river-based economy, which includes commercial
20 navigation, relies heavily on clean and reliable water supply, supports billions of dollars
21 in annual commerce, and creates thousands of jobs tied to manufacturing, shipping, and
22 related industries; and

23 WHEREAS, the Ohio River Basin supports a robust outdoor recreation economy in
24 Kentucky, including fishing, boating, paddling, and tourism activities that contribute to
25 local economies and improved quality of life; and

26 WHEREAS, the Ohio River is formed in part by tributaries that rise within or flow
27 though Kentucky. Pollution originating upstream or from within the Commonwealth

1 directly affects drinking water treatment costs, public health, aquatic habitat, and
2 downstream communities; and

3 WHEREAS, despite its economic and ecological importance, the Ohio River
4 remains one of the most polluted rivers in the nation, and it continues to face challenges
5 related to nutrient pollution, toxic contamination, flooding, aging infrastructure, habitat
6 degradation, and invasive species; and

7 WHEREAS, House Resolution 5966 and Senate Bill 3796 would establish the Ohio
8 River Basin Restoration Program to improve water quality, increase flood resilience
9 through restoration of natural systems, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat,
10 prevent and control invasive aquatic species, remediate toxic substances, enhance public
11 access and recreation, and improve outreach and education throughout the Ohio River
12 Basin; and

13 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky stands to benefit directly from a
14 coordinated Ohio River restoration effort through improved drinking water quality,
15 reduced water treatment and infrastructure costs, increased economic investment in river
16 communities, strengthened flood resilience, and expanded recreational and tourism
17 opportunities;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
20 *Kentucky:*

21 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby expresses its support for House Resolution 5966
22 and Senate Bill 3796, the Ohio River Restoration Program Act, and recognizes its
23 importance to the Commonwealth by protecting our drinking water supplies,
24 strengthening the economy, and restoring the ecological health of the Ohio River Basin.

25 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
26 Resolution to the Kentucky congressional delegation.