

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, H.R. 5966, has been  
5 introduced in the United States Congress with bipartisan support; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25           WHEREAS, the Ohio River is formed in part by tributaries that rise within or flow  
26 though Kentucky. Pollution originating upstream or from within the Commonwealth  
27 directly affects drinking water treatment costs, public health, aquatic habitat, and

1 downstream communities; and

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

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

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

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

17 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
18 ***Kentucky:***

19 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby expresses its support for H.R. 5966, the Ohio  
20 River Restoration Program Act, and recognizes its importance to Commonwealth by  
21 protecting our drinking water supplies, strengthening the economy, and restoring the  
22 ecological health of the Ohio River Basin.

23 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
24 Resolution to the Kentucky congressional delegation upon its adoption.