

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing regulated trapping as an essential, humane, and
2 effective component of modern wildlife management and conservation.

3 WHEREAS, regulated trapping has long served as a vital and scientifically
4 grounded tool for wildlife conservation and management, enabling state, federal, and
5 tribal agencies to maintain balanced ecosystems, control predator populations, and protect
6 critical habitats essential for biodiversity and species recovery; and

7 WHEREAS, trapping plays a pivotal role in furbearer management by protecting
8 endangered and vulnerable species, such as ground-nesting birds or sea turtles, during
9 key life cycle stages, while facilitating the successful reintroduction of populations like
10 river otter and beaver, thereby promoting healthy wildlife communities across diverse
11 landscapes; and

12 WHEREAS, through targeted predator management, trapping significantly
13 enhances waterfowl production in high-density breeding areas by reducing predation on
14 duck eggs from species such as raccoons and skunks, which boosts nest success rates
15 from as low as 5 to 10 percent to the threshold of 15 to 20 percent needed for stable
16 populations and ultimately increases duck numbers by tens of thousands and restores
17 natural breeding potential; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes trapping as an
19 important component of integrated pest management on national wildlife refuges.
20 Through trapping that is regulated under federal laws to sustainably manage wildlife
21 populations, trappers can eradicate invasive species, control pests, and safeguard refuge
22 infrastructure while ensuring compliance with state licensing and humane standards. For
23 example, trapping of feral wild pig populations on national wildlife refuges across 35
24 states has been an important tool to mitigate the 2.5 billion dollars in damages that they
25 have caused; and

26 WHEREAS, according to the 2024 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
27 trapping survey, regulated private trapping subsidizes nuisance control, preventing

1 escalated damage and avoiding higher expenses for taxpayers, saving an average of 16.5
2 million dollars annually; and

3 WHEREAS, trapping provides essential benefits, including disease control,
4 economic value through fur harvesting, prevention of costly damage like beaver-induced
5 flooding, and effective population regulation of overabundant species to prevent habitat
6 degradation, which supports native wildlife recovery; and

7 WHEREAS, only abundant wildlife species are subject to regulated trapping
8 seasons set by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources under scientifically based
9 laws that monitor populations, reflecting widespread public support for trapping as a
10 responsible stewardship of the Commonwealth's natural resources; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the United States Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, trappers contribute 884 million dollars annually to the United States'
13 gross domestic product on the national level from related spending;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
16 ***Kentucky:***

17 ➔Section 1. The Senate recognizes regulated trapping as an essential, humane,
18 and effective component of modern wildlife management and conservation in the
19 Commonwealth.

20 ➔Section 2. The Senate encourages education and outreach efforts to inform the
21 public about the role of regulated trapping in balanced wildlife management and
22 sustainable resource use.

23 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
24 Resolution and notification of its adoption to Rich Storm, commissioner, Department of
25 Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, and the
26 Kentucky congressional delegation, so that they may know and appreciate the
27 contributions from trappers to state wildlife management.