

1 A RESOLUTION supporting perpetual conservation easements.

2 WHEREAS, conservation easements provide important wildlife habitat on our
3 nation's private lands, supporting opportunities for hunters by increasing available habitat
4 for iconic game species while providing many other environmental benefits; and

5 WHEREAS, conservation easements are completely voluntary, free-market,
6 incentive-based contracts, the terms of which are agreed upon by the landowner, for the
7 conservation of natural, agricultural, and historical resources on private land; and

8 WHEREAS, conservation easements protect private property rights and enable
9 landowners to monetize the environmental and habitat values of their land; and

10 WHEREAS, perpetual easements ensure that conservation values are managed
11 forever while providing landowners with clearly defined assurances through written
12 easement contracts; and

13 WHEREAS, conservation easements enable agricultural producers to maintain and
14 expand their operations and pass their land on to their heirs, if they so choose, while
15 benefitting rural economies by keeping private land in agricultural production; and

16 WHEREAS, conservation easements provide capital that enables landowners to
17 grow or maintain agricultural operations or reinvest in the landscape;

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 supports the availability of termed and perpetual
22 conservation easements as an important tool designed to promote conservation practices
23 on private lands while rewarding landowners for their voluntary participation.

24 ➔Section 2. The Senate recognizes that efforts to undermine the terms of existing
25 contracts subverts the intent of those terms as agreed upon by the landowner who chose
26 to enroll the property in an easement program. These efforts also reduce the landowner's
27 flexibility to use their property rights that allow for selling certain land use rights rather

1 than the entire property.

2 ➔Section 3. The Senate recognizes that the rights of future generations are
3 important considerations for current landowners, highlighting the importance for families
4 to discuss property decisions, rather than undermining the availability of perpetual
5 conservation easements and their history of success.

6 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
7 Resolution to Senator Robin Webb.