

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor of the 85th anniversary of East
2 Kentucky Power Cooperative and its rich history of electrifying rural communities across
3 the Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, in May 1936, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act, and
5 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed it into law as part of his New Deal, which
6 allowed the federal government to provide low-cost loans to not-for-profit cooperatives
7 formed by farmers to bring electricity to rural America; and

8 WHEREAS, before 1937, only three percent of rural homes in the Commonwealth
9 had electricity, so on July 7, 1941, thirteen owner-member cooperatives formed the not-
10 for-profit cooperative, East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC), to address the need for
11 self-supplying economical electric generation and transmission to rural areas across the
12 Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1951, EKPC fought and won a years-long legal battle to supply its
14 members with power instead of being forced to take higher-priced power from investor-
15 owned utilities; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1954, EKPC began operating its first power plant, the William C.
17 Dale Station in Ford, Kentucky, which significantly improved the lives of rural citizens
18 by allowing EKPC to affordably supply electricity to its members; and

19 WHEREAS, now, 85 years after its formation and through its 16 owner-member
20 distribution cooperatives, EKPC serves over 1.1 million Kentucky residents across 89
21 counties, as well as farms, businesses, and large industrial members; and

22 WHEREAS, EKPC reliably and affordably generates electricity through its fleet of
23 two coal-fired plants, the H.L. Spurlock Station near Maysville and the John Sherman
24 Cooper Station near Somerset, and two plants powered by natural gas or fuel oil, at
25 Bluegrass Station in Lagrange and the J.K. Smith Station near Winchester; and

26 WHEREAS, EKPC also practices environmental stewardship by deploying an
27 impressive fleet of five renewable generation power-plants, making electricity from

1 methane gas at landfills and hydropower from the federal Southeastern Power
2 Administration through the Laurel River Dam and Wolf Creek dams in the Cumberland
3 River system. Additionally, EKPC has embraced the future by building economical solar
4 projects consisting of 146 megawatts at four solar farms that will provide electricity to
5 over 16,000 homes; and

6 WHEREAS, EKPC's board and executives continue to pursue projects to ensure
7 long-term reliable, competitively priced power for Kentuckians; and

8 WHEREAS, the first power lines, built 85 years ago, brought a new freedom and a
9 better way of life to Kentucky families, and EKPC continues to uphold its mission to
10 safely bring reliable, competitive, and sustainable energy to its owner-members today and
11 into the future;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
14 *Kentucky:*

15 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor the 85th anniversary of
16 East Kentucky Power Cooperative as one of the Commonwealth's most important and
17 crucial utility infrastructures, as well as the 750 men and women of EKPC and the
18 generations before them who have improved the lives of millions of families across the
19 Commonwealth.

20 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the 85th
21 anniversary of East Kentucky Power Cooperative.

22 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
23 Resolution to Senator Elkins for delivery to East Kentucky Power Cooperative.