

1 A RESOLUTION declaring April 22, 2020, as Environmental Education Day in
2 Kentucky and honoring the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

3 WHEREAS, April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day; and

4 WHEREAS, the first Earth Day in 1970 included teach-ins across the country
5 focused on environmental education; and

6 WHEREAS, environmental education builds emotional and social skills including
7 self-esteem, character development, teamwork and leadership skills, and climate literacy
8 by encouraging students to research and think critically about complex environmental
9 issues; and

10 WHEREAS, environmental education improves overall academic performance by
11 boosting test scores and by embracing many other disciplines such as science, social
12 studies, language arts, mathematics, engineering, fine arts, and technology; and

13 WHEREAS, outdoor learning may contribute to great long-term retention of
14 academic material through hands-on, experiential learning; and

15 WHEREAS, green schoolyards promote physical health by providing many active
16 and cooperative play options for children of different abilities, ages, and genders; and

17 WHEREAS, healthy school meals support brain power with vitamins and nutrients
18 needed for focus and energy, promote healthy eating habits even outside of the classroom,
19 and decrease childhood obesity rates; and

20 WHEREAS, environment education prepares students for careers in green and
21 STEM industries, which are high in demand, and expected to grow in the future so as to
22 contribute to economic development; and

23 WHEREAS, environmental education promotes civic engagement and
24 environmental awareness, fostering an ability to participate in lifelong environmental
25 decision making and stewardship; and

26 WHEREAS, environmental education continues to gain support from individuals,
27 educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, governments, and commercial

1 enterprises across the world;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
4 *Kentucky:*

5 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby declares April 22, 2020, as Environmental
6 Education Day in Kentucky, and encourages educators and schools to conduct activities
7 so students will understand the importance of these practices.

8 ➔Section 2. The Senate honors the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22,
9 2020.

10 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
11 Resolution to Senator Morgan McGarvey.