

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Sturgill Simpson.

2 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has long celebrated a deep and
3 enduring connection with country, bluegrass, and Americana music; and

4 WHEREAS, beginning with "hillbilly" music, which would later become known as
5 bluegrass, Kentuckians have duly appreciated both the musical expression of Appalachian
6 musicianship as well as the artists who have built their style around the old-time music
7 that has come to define the bluegrass state; and

8 WHEREAS, from Loretta Lynn and Crystal Gayle to the master Bill Monroe,
9 Kentucky has long been a place synonymous with true country music; and

10 WHEREAS, on this day this body honors the next in that line of artists, Kentucky's
11 own Sturgill Simpson; and

12 WHEREAS, John Sturgill Simpson was born in Breathitt County on June 8, 1978.
13 A veteran of the United States Navy, he would return to the Commonwealth and form the
14 bluegrass band Sunday Valley in 2004 before leaving music to work on a shipping yard
15 for Union Pacific Railroad; and

16 WHEREAS, Sturgill Simpson returned to music after moving to Nashville in 2012,
17 and his first solo album, the self-produced *High Top Mountain*, announced him as a
18 fearless artist who was attempting to return country music to what had brought it into
19 popularity in the 1960s and 1970s. Simpson's second album, *Metamodern Sounds in*
20 *Country Music*, further cemented him as an artist on the rise, and his breakout, *A Sailor's*
21 *Guide to Earth*, peaked at number one on the country music chart; and

22 WHEREAS, Sturgill Simpson is often compared to Waylon Jennings and Merle
23 Haggard, two legends whose stripped-down styles were reminiscent of an era when
24 country music was not so layered and over-produced, and when songwriters were much
25 more free to follow their artistic ambitions; and

26 WHEREAS, in this vein, Sturgill Simpson has also become a fierce critic of top 40
27 country music. In a now-famous 2016 social media post, he lamented that Nashville

1 should stop producing the "formulaic cannon fodder...they've been pumping down rural
2 America's throat for the last 30 years," an opinion with which so many inside and outside
3 the music industry wholly agree; and

4 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body honor those artists in this
5 Commonwealth who perform their craft at such a masterful level that they become
6 examples for other aspiring musicians, and who speak such truths that they attract a
7 generation of younger fans to country music while earning the admiration of those who
8 have been diehard fans for decades; and

9 WHEREAS, in so doing, this body rightfully honors Sturgill Simpson, thanks him
10 for his profound contributions to country music, and grants him best wishes as he
11 continues an already extraordinary career;

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 Sturgill Simpson, and
16 acknowledge him as an artist of the first order.

17 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of and
18 gratitude to Sturgill Simpson.

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