

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the extraordinary service of Senator Damon Thayer to
2 the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon his retirement from the General Assembly.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer, a proud resident of Georgetown, Kentucky,
4 has represented the 17th Senatorial District since 2003, serving the people of Scott,
5 Grant, Kenton, Fayette, and previously Owen, Counties during that time with the utmost
6 commitment, honor, and integrity; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer's 22-year career in public service, which
8 includes the memorable occasion when he grilled hot dogs for his detractors in his back
9 yard during his first re-election campaign, has culminated with a 12-year term as the
10 Senate Majority Floor Leader, distinguishing him as the longest-serving Republican
11 Floor Leader in the history of the Commonwealth—an unparalleled span of time
12 highlighting his political acumen, mastery of the legislative process, and leadership
13 abilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer presently lends his expertise garnered over
15 many years on numerous committees in the Senate, including the Legislative Research
16 Commission; the Committee on Committees; the Rules Committee; the Interim Joint
17 Committee on Agriculture; the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations, and
18 Administrative Regulations; the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government; the
19 Interim Joint Committee on State Government; and the Administrative Regulation
20 Review Subcommittee; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer presided as the Senate chair of the
22 Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee from 2003 to 2005 and the chair of the
23 powerful and prestigious Senate Standing Committee on State and Local Government
24 from 2005 to 2012; and

25 WHEREAS, throughout his legislative career, Senator Damon Thayer has served
26 with distinction on many additional committees and task forces as they have been iterated
27 in the past and present, including the Interim Joint Committees on Health and Welfare;

1 Judiciary; Economic Development, Tourism and Labor; Agriculture and Natural
2 Resources; Labor and Industry; Families and Children; Licensing, Occupations, and
3 Administrative Regulations; and Transportation; and statutory committees, special
4 committees, and task forces, including the Horse Farming Task Force, where he served as
5 co-chair; Economic Development Task Force, where he served as co-chair; Elections,
6 Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Task Force, where he served
7 as co-chair; Local Taxation Task Force, where he served as co-chair; Tobacco Settlement
8 Agreement Fund Oversight Committee; Kentucky Public Pensions Task Force, where he
9 served as co-chair; Equine Issues Task Force; Public Pensions Working Group; and the
10 Pari-mutuel Wagering Taxation Task Force, where he served as co-chair; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer was drawn to Kentucky by his love of
12 thoroughbred racing, and he has used that passion to enact legislation building not just
13 the Commonwealth's horse industry, but also promoting other Kentucky signature
14 industries including America's native spirit bourbon, and sharing the beauty of the
15 Commonwealth through tourism; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer, as a subject matter expert on the horse racing
17 industry, fought to maintain and improve the Commonwealth's year-round racing circuit
18 by increasing purses through wagering on historical racing machines and the creation of a
19 popular sports wagering marketplace. Senator Damon Thayer also ensured the economic
20 viability of the horse breeding industry for all breeds within the Commonwealth with the
21 creation of the Kentucky Breeders' Incentive Fund, which directs funds to the Kentucky
22 Thoroughbred Breeders' Incentive Fund, the Kentucky Standardbred Breeders' Incentive
23 Fund, the Kentucky Sire Stakes, and the Kentucky Horse Breeders' Incentive Fund; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer is nationally recognized as a leader of the
25 conservative movement, even earning a distinction from the *Louisville Courier Journal*
26 as being a conservative's conservative. Senator Damon Thayer has the distinction of
27 being appointed to the GOPAC Legislative Leaders Advisory Board and serving in that

1 capacity for many years. Senator Damon Thayer shepherded the passage of legislation
2 important to conservatives such as protecting the sanctity of life, upholding Kentuckians'
3 Second Amendment and other constitutional rights, making Kentucky a right-to-work
4 state, eliminating the prevailing wage for government projects, lowering Kentucky's
5 individual income tax rate three times, reducing the number of state government
6 administrative regulations, ensuring Kentucky's ability to meet its electrical energy
7 needs, and forcing special taxing districts to be more accountable to the voters; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer's decades-long legislative legacy also includes
9 stabilizing Kentucky's pension systems, redistricting congressional and state legislative
10 district lines twice, strengthening ethical codes for governmental officials, instituting
11 mandatory electronic filing of campaign finance reports, enhancing school safety
12 requirements, streamlining the process to start and expand small businesses, making it
13 easier for veterans to bid on state government contracts, fighting discrimination of
14 pregnant women in the workplace, ensuring excellence in assisted-living services, and
15 making government operations at all levels more transparent; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer's peerless energy, intelligence, and
17 commitment to his legislative and professional causes have garnered him manifold
18 awards and distinctions, including the Big Hitter Award by the Kentucky League of
19 Cities twice; County Advocate Award from the Kentucky Association of Counties;
20 Friend of Kentucky Cities Award from the Kentucky League of Cities 14 times;
21 Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's MVP Award eight times; Nonprofit Advocacy
22 Partner from the Kentucky Nonprofit Network; Kentucky Distillers' Association 100
23 Proof Award four times; American Conservative Union Award of Conservative
24 Excellence, wherein he achieved a remarkable lifetime score of 90 percent from the
25 Center for Legislative Accountability; Champion of Children Award from Blueprint for
26 Kentucky's Children; Champion of Quarter Horses in Kentucky Award from the
27 Kentucky Quarter Horse Association; Distinguished Legislator Award from the Kentucky

1 County Attorneys Association; Champion for Students Award from EdChoice Kentucky;
2 Friend of Film Award from the Southern Kentucky Film Commission; Friend of Industry
3 Award from the Kentucky Malt Beverage Council; Friend of Vision Award from the
4 Kentucky Optometric Association; Defender of Economic Freedom Award from the
5 Kentucky Club for Growth; Leadership and Presidential Awards from the Kentucky
6 Harness Horsemen's Association; Kentucky Housing Hero from the Homebuilders
7 Association of Kentucky; Fueling Small Business Award from the Kentucky Petroleum
8 Marketing Association; Kentucky Craft Beer Champion from the Kentucky Guild of
9 Brewers; Legislative Award from the Kentucky Retail Federation; Kentucky Tourism
10 Award for Legislative Leadership from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association twice;
11 Key to the City Award from the cities of Taylor Mill and Independence; Liberty Award
12 for Transparency from the Bluegrass Institute; Defender of Freedom Award from the
13 National Rifle Association; Outstanding Legislative Service Award from the Kentucky
14 Association of Chiefs of Police; Legislative Award of Merit from Associated General
15 Contractors; Legislative Champion Award from Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Rural
16 Broadband Advocate Award from the Kentucky Telecom Association; Special
17 Recognition from the Kentucky Sheriffs Association; Special Recognition from the
18 Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association; Ira & Constance Gray Award
19 from the Scott County Republican Party; Scott County 4-H Council Man of the Year;
20 Outstanding Community Service Award from the Grant County Republican Party;
21 Partner for Commonsense Justice from the Kentucky Partnership for Commonsense
22 Justice; Grayling High School in Michigan Alumni Hall of Fame; recognition in
23 Institutional Investor Magazine as a most influential person for his sponsorship of Senate
24 Bill 2, which reformed Kentucky's pension systems; Champion for Signature Industries
25 Award from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; and Policymaker of the Year from
26 Gambling.com Group; and

27 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer is the proud and loving father of Daniel

1 Thayer, a graduate of Northern Kentucky University, and Katie Thayer, a graduate of
2 Middle Tennessee State University; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Damon Thayer announced that he will conclude his service
4 with the Kentucky General Assembly after the expiration of his present term ending in
5 December 2024;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

7 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
8 *Kentucky:*

9 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky Senate does hereby honor the extraordinary service of
10 Senator Damon Thayer to the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon the occasion of his
11 retirement from this august body.

12 ➔Section 2. The members of the Senate extend to Senator Damon Thayer
13 gratitude for his exemplary service to the General Assembly and the people of the
14 Commonwealth, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

15 ➔Section 3. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Senator
16 Damon Thayer, the Gentleman from Scott.

17 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
18 Resolution to Senator Julie Raque Adams for delivery to Senator Damon Thayer.