

## RESOLUTION 22-09

Whereas, the National Park Service is evaluating the feasibility of including the Kentucky Wildlands, as defined by 41 counties of Appalachia, into the National Heritage Area system, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources, and

Whereas, these resources are of national importance and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing usage, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands is rich in natural beauty, ancient forests, cliffs, lakes, culture and folklore, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. has begun an all-out regional tourism marketing initiative to capitalize on the region's majestic beauty and rich heritage, and

Whereas, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. is spurring economic development in Appalachia by promoting it as a regional tourism destination, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Wildlands contains the Cumberland Gap, the original "Gateway to the West," and

Whereas, the Warriors' Path was one of the Nation's first interstate trails, a 12,000 year-old path of commerce that began on the Atlantic Coast and traveled through the resource rich Kentucky Wildlands to the Great Lakes and is currently being re-


developed as a multi-purpose recreational trail from the Cumberland Gap to the Ohio River, and

Whereas, the opening of Boone Trace through Appalachia in 1775, the first road into the land that was to become Ky, combined with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, together began the "Westward Movement", when citizens stopped being British and became Americans, and

Whereas, the American Spirit to dream a dream, seek it, achieve it and triumph was born, in part, from the events taking place in Appalachia,

Whereas, the City of Somerset contributes to the heritage, natural beauty and history of Appalachia

Be it therefore resolved that the fiscal city council of Somerset fully supports the Kentucky Wildlands and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in its application to the National Park Service for a National Heritage Area Designation and will participate actively through private and public partnerships where appropriate to achieve that end.



---

Mayor Alan Keck



---

Attested by Nick Bradley, City Clerk