

CHAPTER 52**(HJR 154)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION relating to Newgrass music.

WHEREAS, Newgrass music legend Sam Bush was born in 1952 in Bowling Green, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush is an exceedingly talented musician who has mastered performance on the fiddle, mandolin, and guitar; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush was a musical prodigy who began playing the fiddle in early childhood and was a three time national junior fiddle champion at the National Oldtime Fiddler's Contest in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush has received the Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement for an Instrumentalist award in 2009 and has received several awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association, including Instrumental Performer of the Year on the Mandolin in 1990, 1991, 1992, and 2007, and Instrumental Album of the Year and Recorded Event of the Year in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush joined the band Bluegrass Alliance while still in his teens; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush was the founder of New Grass Revival in 1971, a band that revolutionized Bluegrass music by incorporating aspects of other types of music and often performed and rehearsed in the Bowling Green, Kentucky, area; and

WHEREAS, after New Grass Revival disbanded in 1989, Sam Bush joined the all-star Bluegrass band Strength in Numbers at the Telluride Music Festival in Telluride, Colorado and later joined Emmylou Harris' Nash Ramblers, touring and recording with that group for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush founded the Sam Bush Band in 1996 and has firmly established his preeminent reputation in Newgrass music; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush has long been much in demand as a musician and has performed with a number of top musical acts, including Garth Brooks, Neil Diamond, Bela Fleck, Wynonna Judd, Allison Kraus, Lyle Lovett, Dolly Parton, Ricky Skaggs, Shania Twain, Trisha Yearwood, and many, many more; and

WHEREAS, Sam Bush is internationally renowned as "The King of Newgrass" and "The King of Telluride," and is a native son of the Commonwealth of whom all Kentuckians can be proud; and

WHEREAS, Newgrass music, also known as Progressive Bluegrass music, is one of two major subgenres of Bluegrass music, and may be distinguished from traditional Bluegrass music by four key elements: (1) instrumentation that frequently includes electric instruments, drums, piano, and other instruments; (2) imported songs or imitated styles from other music genres, such as jazz, the blues, and rock and roll; (3) nontraditional chord progressions; and (4) lengthy "jam band" style improvisation; and

WHEREAS, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Sam Bush's birthplace, is also the home of the world's first International Newgrass Festival, which took place August 21-23, 2009 at historic Ballance Farms just north of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and featured among its headlining performers Bowling Green, Kentucky's beloved native son, Sam Bush; and

WHEREAS, the International Newgrass Festival will return to historic Ballance Farms for the second time August 20-22, 2010, and performers will include three members of the band that launched Newgrass music, New Grass Revival, including Curtis Burch, John Cowan, and Bowling Green, Kentucky's own Sam Bush;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Kentucky General Assembly hereby designates and declares Bowling Green, Kentucky, native Sam Bush as "The Father of Newgrass Music."

➔Section 2. The Kentucky General Assembly hereby designates and declares Bowling Green, Kentucky as "The Birthplace of Newgrass Music."

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Joint Resolution to the Representative from Warren 21, for presentation to Mr. Sam Bush, International Bluegrass Music Association, 2 Music Circle South, Suite 100, Nashville, Tennessee 37203; the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, 222

Fifth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203; Bowling Green Mayor Elaine Walker and the City Commission of Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1001 College Street, P.O. Box 430, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42102-0430; and Warren County Judge/Executive Mike Buchanon and the Fiscal Court of Warren County, Kentucky, 429 East 10th Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

Signed by Governor March 30, 2010.