

FCR 8

Office of the President
September 12, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

IMPROVE CENTER FOR APPLIED ENERGY RESEARCH (CAER) FACILITIES
(CAER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CENTER – CONSTRUCTION PHASE)
CAPITAL PROJECT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the initiation of the Improve Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) Facilities (Outreach and Education Center – Construction Phase) capital project.

Background: Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 8:2, any capital project with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000 or more must be approved by the Board prior to initiation.

The Board approved the design phase of a new Outreach and Education Center for the University's CAER at its September 2024 meeting. This project will initiate the construction phase of an approximately 5,600 square foot Outreach and Education Center adjacent to other CAER facilities. Due to continued growth, CAER no longer has access to sufficient non-laboratory space for meetings, industry engagement and education and outreach activities. This new facility will allow CAER to host Kentucky student groups for hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational programming, collaborative meetings, continuing professional education and topical workshops and conferences. The space will also meet the needs of the CAER-administered Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority and the Kentucky Energy Planning and Inventory Commission.

This \$8,500,000 project, including design and construction, authorized by the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly is well within the total legislative authorization of \$75,000,000 and will be funded with agency funds.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____

