

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-0116.01 Vanessa Cleaver x4636

HJR16-1015

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Roupe and Lee, Mitsch Bush

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Merrifield and Baumgardner,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1015

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC**
102 **TRAINING CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, CELEBRATING THE OLYMPIC GAMES**
104 **AND ITS ATHLETES.**

1 WHEREAS, The United States Olympic Complex in Colorado
2 Springs, former home of ENT Air Force Base and headquarters of the
3 North American Defense Command, is the flagship training center for the
4 United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the Olympic Training
5 Center (Center) programs and has been home to the USOC since 1978;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In August 2009, the USOC and the city of Colorado
8 Springs finalized a 30-year, \$42.3 million economic development
9 agreement for improvements to the Center and future plans to retain and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 expand the National Governing Bodies in Colorado Springs and build an
2 Olympic museum; and

3 WHEREAS, The renovations and future expansions are expected
4 to increase Olympic candidates' training and success at the Olympics; and

5 WHEREAS, Located on a 35-acre complex near downtown
6 Colorado Springs, the Center includes a state-of-the-art sports medicine
7 and sport science center and an athlete center that provides dining,
8 housing, recreational facilities, and other services for over 500 coaches
9 and athletes at a time; and

10 WHEREAS, With sports venues and support facilities for fencing,
11 gymnastics, judo, modern pentathlon, shooting, swimming, taekwondo,
12 weightlifting, wrestling, boxing, basketball, volleyball, and track cycling,
13 the Center is important to the training of America's athletes; and

14 WHEREAS, As a result of the wide range of sports featured at the
15 Center, athletes from all over the country and world train there,
16 diversifying and adding international flavor to both the city of Colorado
17 Springs and the state of Colorado; and

18 WHEREAS, For some athletes, the Center is their primary training
19 facility, making it essential to the success of our Olympic and Paralympic
20 teams; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to supporting resident athletes with their
22 competition and training commitments, the Center also supports their
23 personal needs by providing education, recreation and community
24 activities, computer workstations, communication resources, and job
25 opportunities; and

26 WHEREAS, The USOC also operates a world-class velodrome, a
27 cycle-racing track with steeply banked curves, and a recently added dome,
28 making it an all-weather facility, in Memorial Park, one of only 29 in the
29 United States; and

30 WHEREAS, With several world records having been set there, the
31 velodrome is considered to be among the top cycling facilities in the
32 world, featuring a 333.3-meter banked cement track, which wraps around
33 a 200-meter track for roller sports, and a 1,000 seat facility that is open
34 to the public and hosts local, national, and international events; and

1 WHEREAS, Because the Center offers world-class training for
2 athletes, there have been a number of famous Olympians who have
3 trained there, including in the past 10 years: Michael Phelps, 22 medals,
4 swimming; Katie Ledecky, gold medal, swimming; Natalie Coughlin, 12
5 medals, swimming; Missy Franklin, 5 medals, swimming; Amy Van
6 Dyken, 6 medals, swimming; Nathan Adrian, swimming; Ryan Lochte,
7 11 medals, swimming; Matt Grevers, 6 medals, swimming; Steven Lopez,
8 3 medals, taekwondo; Deontay Wilder, bronze medal, boxing; Lopez
9 Lomong, flag bearer, track and field; Dartanyon Crockett, bronze medal,
10 Paralympic judo; Michael Shea, silver medal, Paralympic snowboard;
11 Keith Gabel, bronze medal, Paralympic snowboard; Curt Tomasevics, 2
12 medals, bobsled; Steve Holcomb, 3 medals, bobsled; Paul Hamm, 3
13 medals, gymnastics; Matt Emmons, 3 medals, shooting; Apolo Ohno, 8
14 medals, speed skating; and Hunter Kemper, triathlon; and

15 WHEREAS, Colorado has also been home to many sports
16 competition events. In 2015, Vail and Beaver Creek hosted the 2015 FIS
17 Alpine World Ski Championships, with over 700 professional skiers from
18 70 countries and \$58 million towards improvements of Vail and Beaver
19 Creek mountains; and

20 WHEREAS, Also in 2015, the USA Pro Challenge, a 115-mile
21 cycling race, took place from Steamboat Springs to Downtown Denver,
22 and was estimated to draw in one million spectators and add more than
23 \$100 million to the state's economy; and

24 WHEREAS, Other competitive events that have been held in
25 Colorado include: The 2012 USA Pro Challenge, the 2014 U.S. Grand
26 Prix, the 2015 Junior Grand Prix, the 2013 Burton U.S. Open, the 2010
27 and 2012 USA Boxing National Championship, the 48th USA
28 Racquetball National Singles Tournament, and the Annual Colorado
29 Springs Amateur Hockey Association Presidents' Day Hockey
30 Tournament; and

31 WHEREAS, While most other countries' Olympic committees are
32 funded by their national government, the USOC relies on donations and
33 corporate sponsors for much of its revenue; and

34 WHEREAS, Depending on their sport, some athletes elect to
35 participate in training camps held in the host city or country before the
36 Olympic Games (games) commence, but most athletes arrive just a few
37 days before the Opening Ceremony and stay for the 2-week duration of

1 the games; and

2 WHEREAS, The games, which will be hosted in Rio de Janeiro,
3 Brazil (Rio) this year, are a worldwide celebration of athleticism,
4 patriotism, and excellence, bringing the world together in the spirit of
5 unity and competition; and

6 WHEREAS, On April 21, 2016, the lighting of the Olympic flame,
7 a long-standing symbol of the games, will take place starting in Olympia,
8 Greece, and will usher in the games at the Opening Ceremony in Rio a
9 few months later; and

10 WHEREAS, The choice of Olympia as the departure point
11 emphasizes the link between the ancient and modern games and
12 underlines the profound connection between these two events; and

13 WHEREAS, The origins of the Olympic flame lie in ancient Greek
14 mythology and in the celebration of the ancient games in Greece where
15 a flame burned throughout the duration of the games; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the International Olympic Committee,
17 in the context of the modern games the Olympic flame, specially lit by the
18 sun's rays as a representation of its purity, is a manifestation of the
19 positive values that man has always associated with the symbol of fire --
20 knowledge, mastery, and the use of fire being among the most important
21 achievements of humanity; and

22 WHEREAS, The Olympic torch exemplifies the enduring Olympic
23 spirit and is a symbol of achievement, excellence, and international
24 friendship; and

25 WHEREAS, The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute
26 to building a peaceful, better world by educating youth through sports
27 practiced without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit,
28 which requires mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship, solidarity,
29 and fair play; now, therefore,

30 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
31 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

32 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
33 officially recognize, honor, and support the United States Olympic

1 Training Center headquartered in Colorado Springs, Olympic City USA,
2 the United States Olympic Committee for training our athletes, and the
3 outstanding athletes representing Colorado and the United States in the
4 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

5 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
6 to Governor John Hickenlooper; the United States Olympic Committee;
7 the United States Training Center in Colorado Springs; Larry Probst,
8 chairman of the USOC's board of directors; Alan Ashley, USOC's chief
9 of sport performance; Rick Adams, USOC's chief of paralympic sport and
10 NGB organizational development; the Colorado Association of
11 Commerce & Industry; Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers; each
12 member of the Colorado Springs city council; Vail Mayor Dave Chapin;
13 each member of the Vail town council; and Colorado's Congressional
14 Delegation.