

RESOLUTION ON OLYMPIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Susan J. Koehn

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SALT LAKE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES OF 2002.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 will be one of the most important civic, social, and sporting events in the history of the state;

WHEREAS in 1989, prior to obtaining the right for Salt Lake City to host the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 and without guarantee of reimbursement, the Utah State Legislature, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, and the Utah Association of Counties agreed that 1/32 % of state and local sales and use tax revenues should be diverted for ten years to provide funds to construct Olympic venues;

WHEREAS the Olympic venues constructed with state and local sales and use tax revenue were instrumental in Salt Lake City obtaining the right to host the Olympic Winter Games of 2002;

WHEREAS S.J.R. 17 from the 1994 Legislative General Session required that, contingent on obtaining the right to host the Olympic Winter Games of 2002, the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 would reimburse the diverted sales and use tax revenue to the state and local governments;

WHEREAS by 1999 when the diversion ends, the cities and town portion of the funds used to build Olympic venues will be approximately \$25,000,000, which would have otherwise been invested by the approximately 230 cities and towns in their individual communities;

WHEREAS although a majority of the cities and towns donating their revenues are located far from Olympic venue sites, they agreed to the diversion because they believe that the Olympics belong to citizens throughout the state and will benefit the entire state;

WHEREAS because the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 are fast approaching, the Salt

Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 and the citizens of the state must work closely, openly, and cooperatively so that the citizens of the state have confidence in and support for the efforts of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee;

WHEREAS in order for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 to be successful in the minds of the citizens of the state, the citizens must feel that their investment in and support of the Olympics results in a positive legacy of opportunities, facilities, programs, and an absence of a taxpayer bailout of potential budget shortfalls;

WHEREAS although the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 is a non-governmental entity that is funded privately, many venues to be used for the Olympic Games have been built using tax dollars and with public support; and

WHEREAS the effort to prepare for and host the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 is a public-private partnership that requires public participation in the decision making process:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, although the determination of who serves on the Executive Committee of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 rests with the Board of Trustees of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002, the governor and the Legislature support the appointment of a representative of the Utah League of Cities and Towns to the Executive Committee of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 to help ensure that the citizens of the state have more representation and participation in the decision making process; sales tax revenues are properly reimbursed; and Utah communities share in the Olympic legacy.