

Second Regular Session

Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. R00-1040.01 Robert Pogue

STATE OF COLORADO

BY REPRESENTATIVE Plant

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-1039

101 CONCERNING PERMANENT PRESERVATION OF THE ROCKY FLATS BUFFER
102 ZONE AS OPEN SPACE.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government, through the Atomic Energy
2 Commission, acquired the Rocky Flats site in 1951 and began operations
3 there in 1952; and

4 WHEREAS, Since 1992, the mission of the Rocky Flats site has
5 changed from the production of nuclear weapons components to
6 managing wastes and materials and cleaning up and converting the site to
7 beneficial uses in a manner that is safe, environmentally and socially
8 responsible, physically secure, and cost-effective; and

9 WHEREAS, The approximately 6,000-acre buffer zone
10 surrounding the industrial core area has generally remained undisturbed
11 since the acquisition of the Rocky Flats site; and

12 WHEREAS, The buffer zone possesses an impressive diversity of
13 plant and animal species that the Colorado Natural Heritage Program has
14 identified as being of extremely high significance in terms of rarity and
15 ecological importance; and

16 WHEREAS, The state of Colorado is experiencing increasing
17 growth and development, especially in the metropolitan Denver Front
18 Range area in the vicinity of the Rocky Flats site, and such growth and
19 development reduces the amount of open space in this area, thus
20 diminishing for many metropolitan Denver communities the vistas of the
21 striking Front Range mountain backdrop; and

22 WHEREAS, Some areas of the buffer zone may contain
23 contamination and may require further cleanup; and

24 WHEREAS, The national interest requires that the ongoing
25 cleanup and closure of the entire Rocky Flats site be completed without
26 unnecessary delay and that the site thereafter be managed to preserve its
27 value as open space and wildlife habitat, thus ensuring that current and

1 future generations of Coloradans can enjoy the wildlife, open space, and
2 ecological benefits of this land; and

3 WHEREAS, Over 80 percent of the people who live in the
4 communities that surround Rocky Flats support preserving the buffer
5 zone as open space; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rocky Flats Open Space Act (H.R. 2179),
7 introduced in the 106th session of the United States Congress by
8 Representative Mark Udall, representing Colorado's 2nd Congressional
9 District, would permanently preserve the buffer zone of Rocky Flats as
10 open space; and

11 WHEREAS, H.R. 2179 will also ensure that the cleanup and
12 closure of Rocky Flats continues without delay and complies with all
13 applicable federal and state environmental laws while maintaining the
14 flexibility necessary to ensure the safety and health of the public; and

15 WHEREAS, H.R. 2179 would create a process to fully involve the
16 public and local communities in deciding how the buffer zone will be
17 managed as open space; and

18 WHEREAS, On February 7, 2000, an overwhelming majority of
19 the local jurisdictions immediately surrounding the Rocky Flats site,
20 specifically the cities of Boulder, Broomfield, Superior, and Westminster,
21 along with Boulder and Jefferson Counties, voted to support H.R. 2179
22 with some minor refinements; now, therefore,

23 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second*
24 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
25 *herein:*

26 That the General Assembly of the State of Colorado hereby
27 expresses its support for H.R. 2179, and urges the United States Congress
28 to approve H.R. 2179.

29 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be
30 sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United
31 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
32 and each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation.