

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R02-0896.01 Jery Payne

SJR02-007

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Cairns**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Rhodes**

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**Senate Committees**

Business, Labor, and Finance

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**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-007**

101      **CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC LOSSES RESULTING**  
102                   **FROM A STRIKE BY THE MECHANICS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY**  
103                   **UNITED AIR LINES.**

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1            WHEREAS, United Air Lines has reportedly offered raises of up  
2 to 37% over the next 5 years to the mechanics who are considering  
3 striking; and

4            WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Colorado has a deep  
5 respect for the labor rights of mechanics and all employees of United Air  
6 Lines; and

7            WHEREAS, United Air Lines reportedly operates approximately  
8 60% of the daily flights at Denver International Airport; and

9            WHEREAS, United Air Lines has been a great corporate neighbor  
10 to Denver and Colorado; and

11           WHEREAS, Avoiding a strike would be beneficial to all parties  
12 involved, including Colorado, United Air Lines, and the employees of  
13 United Air Lines, because of the risk that another airline would replace  
14 United Air Lines in Denver; and

15           WHEREAS, United Air Lines has reportedly lost 2.1 billion  
16 dollars since September 11<sup>th</sup>; 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           WHEREAS, United Air Lines is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest employer in  
2 Colorado doing approximately 4 million dollars in business per day; and

3           WHEREAS, A strike creates the risk that United Air Lines could  
4 go into bankruptcy, which would not benefit any of the employees of  
5 United Air Lines, drastically hurting Colorado's job base; and

6           WHEREAS, A strike would dramatically decrease the number of  
7 flights and thereby decrease the number of business and recreational  
8 travelers to Colorado; and

9           WHEREAS, Avoiding a strike would be beneficial to Colorado's  
10 economy, especially the tourism and hotel industries, which are just  
11 recovering from past events; and

12           WHEREAS, United Air Lines offers over half of the flights from  
13 Denver International Airport to Colorado's resort destinations; and

14           WHEREAS, A strike may cause Denver International Airport's  
15 bond rating to fall and thereby increase interest rates to the airport, which  
16 would raise the costs for all airlines operating at the airport, decrease  
17 profitability, raise airline prices, and diminish the pool of funds available  
18 to pay the employees of United Air Lines; and

19           WHEREAS, United Air Lines pays significant taxes to Colorado  
20 that are used to help all Coloradans; and

21           WHEREAS, Everyone, including the employees of United Air  
22 Lines, wins if a strike is avoided; now, therefore,

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

25           (1) That the General Assembly requests:

26           (a) The mechanics of United Air Lines to take into consideration  
27 the economy of Colorado and the nation; and

28           (b) The mechanics of United Air Lines and the United States  
29 Congress to consider accepting a 90-day cooling off period, binding  
30 arbitration, or a 2-year voluntary surcharge that would be credited to an  
31 employee hardship fund.

32           (2) That the General Assembly hereby encourages United Air  
33 Lines and the mechanics to reach an agreement and to use their best  
34 incentives to work for an agreement, commends the parties for their hard  
35 work in reaching any such agreement, and encourages the International  
36 Association of Machinists to ratify any such agreement.

37           (3) That the General Assembly commends and supports the  
38 actions of the Governor in all that he is doing to address the issue because  
39 such actions will help strengthen both the Colorado and national  
40 economy, keep United Air Lines in business in Denver and Colorado, and  
41 retain United Air Lines as a significant contributor to the economy and

1 as a significant local taxpayer.

2 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be sent to  
3 President George Bush, Governor Bill Owens, United Air Lines, the  
4 International Association of Machinists, and each member of Colorado's  
5 delegation to the United States Congress.