

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R01-1009.01 Cindi Markwell

SR01-013

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Musgrave, and Dyer (Durango)

Senate Committees

Public Policy and Planning

SENATE RESOLUTION 01-013

101 **CONCERNING COLORADO STATE SENATE’S OPPOSITION TO THE**
102 **TREATMENT OF UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL HELD**
103 **CAPTIVE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF**
104 **CHINA.**

1 WHEREAS, On April 1, 2001, a United States Navy EP-3E
2 reconnaissance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet while doing
3 routine surveillance over international waters causing the death of the
4 Chinese pilot, Wang Wei; and

5 WHEREAS, The 24 crew members of the United States aircraft
6 were forced to make an emergency landing at a Chinese military base on
7 Hainan Island in the South China Sea; and

8 WHEREAS, The Chinese inappropriately boarded the United
9 States aircraft, examined the top-secret technology aboard it, and have
10 detained the American crew members; and

11 WHEREAS, China will not allow free access to the 24 American
12 crew members who are still held on Hainan Island; and

13 WHEREAS, Although disputed by China, the accident occurred
14 when the Chinese aircraft started to fly directly below the United States
15 aircraft and the American aircraft executed a banking maneuver; and

16 WHEREAS, It is unconscionable for China to demand an apology

*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 from the United States for this accident when it is clear that the United
2 States aircraft and its crew were lawfully performing the routine, yet
3 vital, function of gathering intelligence for the United States government
4 and that the accident was brought on by increasingly aggressive Chinese
5 fighter pilots; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States had, prior to this accident, made
7 complaints to the Chinese government about the increasingly aggressive
8 and dangerous tactics used during these intercepts by Chinese pilots; and

9 WHEREAS, The captivity of the 24 American crew members is
10 another example of China's poor human rights record and should play an
11 integral role in preventing the city of Beijing and the country of China
12 from hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics; and

13 WHEREAS, The families and friends of the American crew
14 members are anxiously waiting for their safe return; and

15 WHEREAS, Yellow ribbons flutter from many tree branches and
16 fence posts in Oak Harbor, Washington, where residents keep a vigil for
17 the detained crew members; and

18 WHEREAS, We, the Colorado State Senate, out of respect and
19 sympathy for the crew members and their families who are being held as
20 prisoners, respectfully request that Mayor Wellington Webb return to
21 Colorado from China where he is meeting with Chinese representatives
22 regarding the creation of a trade office in China, until the crew members
23 are released by the Chinese government; now, therefore,

24 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly*
25 *of the State of Colorado:*

26 That we, the members of the Colorado State Senate, hereby
27 express our opposition to and abhorrence of the treatment of the captured
28 American crew members by the government of the People's Republic of
29 China and request the President and Congress of the United States to take
30 all necessary steps to convey this expression of the Senate to the Chinese
31 government and to ensure the immediate release of these Americans.

32 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Senate Resolution be
33 sent to the President, Speaker of the United States House of
34 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, each member
35 of the Colorado congressional delegation, and Mayor Wellington Webb.