

Senate Resolution 589

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Shafer of the 48th, Millar of the 40th, Unterman of the 45th, Thompson of the 5th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and congratulating the Republic of Korea on being the host of the 2018 XXIII
2 Winter Olympic Games and the XII Winter Paralympic Games; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the XXIII Winter Olympic Games will be held for 17 days from February 9 to
4 25, 2018, and the XII Winter Paralympic Games will be from March 9 to 18, 2018, in
5 PyeongChang, the Republic of Korea; and

6 WHEREAS, PyeongChang was selected as the host city of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games
7 after receiving a majority vote at the 123rd International Olympic Committee Session held
8 on July 6, 2011, after three consecutive bids; and

9 WHEREAS, the world's best athletes will compete on Asia's center stage to launch new
10 horizons of culture, environment, geography, and economy in winter sports and create a
11 sustainable legacy for the Republic of Korea; and

12 WHEREAS, the Winter Olympic Games will be held in Korea for the first time in 30 years
13 after the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988. PyeongChang will be the stage for the Opening and
14 Closing Ceremonies and most snow sports. Alpine speed events will take place in
15 Jeongseon, and all ice sports will be competed in the coastal City of Gangneung; and

16 WHEREAS, the emblem symbolizes a world open to everyone. It combines the image of
17 ice and snow, winter sports athletes, and people from across the world coming together in
18 PyeongChang, where heaven meets earth; and

19 WHEREAS, Soohorang, the mascot of the Winter Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018, took
20 its motif from the white tiger, which has been long considered Korea's guardian animal.
21 "Sooho," meaning "protection" in Korean, symbolizes protection offered to the athletes,
22 spectators, and other participants in the 2018 Games; and

23 WHEREAS, the motto "Passion. Connected." refers to a world in which everyone is
24 connected with shared passion for winter sports, a world open to any generation anywhere,
25 anytime, to open new horizons in the continued growth of winter sports; and

26 WHEREAS, athletes taking part in the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 will
27 compete in 102 events in 15 sport disciplines. The Games will be the first ever Winter
28 Olympic Games with more than 100 gold medals. In particular, six new events including
29 men's and women's Snowboard Big Air, men's and women's Speed Skating Mass Start,
30 Curling Mixed Doubles, and the Alpine Skiing Team Event will be added to the program.
31 PyeongChang 2018 will also be the stage for the greatest number of women's and mixed
32 events in the history of the Winter Olympic Games; and

33 WHEREAS, the 2018 United States Olympic Team is expected to include approximately 240
34 athletes, to feature a blend of veteran and new talent, and to field athletes in all 15 sport
35 disciplines; and

36 WHEREAS, Georgia's own Meyers Taylor, from Douglasville, Georgia, has overcome
37 several injuries since the Sochi Olympics and is seeking her third Bobsled Olympic medal
38 in PyeongChang; and

39 WHEREAS, the 2018 United States Paralympic Team will participate in the events of Alpine
40 Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Sled Hockey, Snowboarding, and Wheelchair Curling in the 2018
41 PyeongChang Winter Paralympic Games; and

42 WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta was the venue for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games and
43 wishes success to the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games as a city
44 that has already experienced the noble Olympic spirit; and

45 WHEREAS, all Georgians, more than 150,000 Korean Americans, and more than 125
46 Korean companies that provide at least 15,000 jobs in the State of Georgia will welcome a
47 winter sports celebration for world peace and unity; and

48 WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the following resolution, by
49 consensus: "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal," in
50 support of the Olympic Truce aiming to ensure the safe passage and participation of athletes
51 and spectators at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games; and

52 WHEREAS, One Korea USA is a constitutional organization and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
53 organization that has focused on developing communication, healing, and unity among
54 Koreans living overseas since 2014. One Korea USA networks with Korean communities
55 around the world with the purpose of developing a global peace-centered cultural
56 organization. One Korea USA executes cultural exchanges, promotes Korean culture to the
57 global community, and prepares the community with special education needed before the
58 unification of North Korea and South Korea; and

59 WHEREAS, the Federation of Korean Associations in the SE USA (FKASEUSA) represents
60 more than 200,000 Korean Americans in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee,
61 Alabama, and Georgia. The federation, established in 1981, consists of 26 Korean American
62 Associations as members; and

63 WHEREAS, the Korea National Unification Council – Atlanta Chapter (NUACAATL)
64 advises by request and makes proposals to the President of the Republic of Korea regarding
65 policy development and implementation for a democratic and peaceful inter Korean
66 unification and has 96 council members spread across Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North
67 Carolina, and South Carolina.

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
69 recognize and congratulate the Republic of Korea on being the host of the 2018 XXIII
70 Winter Olympic Games and the XII Winter Paralympic Games and wish them success with
71 the expectation that these events will contribute to peace and stability on the Korean
72 Peninsula.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
74 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the volunteers,
75 members, staff, and organizations of One Korea USA, the Federation of Korean Associations
76 in the SE USA, and the Korea National Unification Council – Atlanta Chapter.