

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1237.01 Ashley Zimmerman x2291

HR16-1007

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 16-1007

101 CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE PINON CANYON MANEUVER SITE.

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1 WHEREAS, The Pinon Canyon maneuver site, located on over  
2 two hundred thirty-five thousand acres in southeastern Colorado, opened  
3 in 1985, and, combined with Fort Carson's training areas, is the second  
4 largest department of defense maneuver training site in the nation for  
5 soldiers from Fort Carson and other military bases; and

6 WHEREAS, The area that makes up the Pinon Canyon maneuver  
7 site is home to a diverse ecosystem of big and small game, fisheries, and  
8 non-game wildlife, and also boasts displays of forest, rangeland, and  
9 mineral resources; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pinon Canyon maneuver site also provides  
11 demonstrable evidence of almost four thousand years of human history,  
12 and several hundred properties on the site are eligible for designation on  
13 the national register of historic places, including ninety-eight  
14 archeological sites; and

15 WHEREAS, Prior to the creation of the Pinon Canyon maneuver  
16 site, the land area was lightly populated and devoted almost exclusively

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 to ranching and livestock grazing, sometimes by families that had owned  
2 their land within the site area for generations; and

3 WHEREAS, Purchase of the land that became the Pinon Canyon  
4 maneuver site was completed in 1983 and approximately half of the land  
5 area that became the site was acquired by the department of the Army by  
6 condemnation as many landowners were unwilling sellers; and

7 WHEREAS, The optimal way to ensure that the magnificent and  
8 rare natural and human treasures of the Pinon Canyon maneuver site are  
9 preserved for future generations would be to require the United States  
10 Army to complete an environmental impact assessment for expansion of  
11 the maneuver site area and for Congress to pass laws to pay landowners  
12 the full measure of the compensation they are owed for these lands; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Cory Gardner, when he was a Congressman  
14 in the United States House of Representatives, offered an amendment to  
15 the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013" that  
16 would have required this assessment by the United States Army and  
17 subsequent vote by Congress; and

18 WHEREAS, Section 8 (17) of article I of the United States  
19 Constitution allows the state legislatures to withdraw consent by a state  
20 to the exercise by the federal government of exclusive jurisdiction over  
21 particular land and the state of Colorado has not given its consent to the  
22 acquisition of, or exclusive jurisdiction over, land sought by the United  
23 States department of defense for purposes associated with the expansion  
24 of the Pinon Canyon maneuver site; now, therefore,

25 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*  
26 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

27 (1) That any plans that the federal government may have for the  
28 expansion of the Pinon Canyon maneuver site should allow for and  
29 incorporate community input; and

30 (2) It is important for Congress to remember that the state of  
31 Colorado retains sovereignty over any decisions made regarding land  
32 within its territorial boundaries and that the Colorado General Assembly,  
33 per section 8 (17) of article I of the United States Constitution, must give  
34 its consent to any expansion of the Pinon Canyon maneuver site by the  
35 federal government.