

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to
3 which was referred Joint Resolution J.R.S. 37 entitled “Joint resolution
4 supporting, in solidarity with national and international ski organizations and
5 numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-overdue gender
6 equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition” recommends the resolution
7 be amended by striking out all Whereas and Resolved clauses and inserting in
8 lieu thereof the following:

9 *Whereas*, Nordic combined is a challenging winter sport, requiring
10 competitors to prove their skills as both Nordic skiers and alpine ski jumpers,
11 and

12 *Whereas*, the first documented Nordic combined competition occurred in
13 Oslo, Norway, in 1892, 32 years before the inaugural Winter Olympics was
14 held in France in 1924, at which Nordic combined was one of the featured
15 events, and

16 *Whereas*, the proud century of Nordic combined competition in the Winter
17 Olympics has been tarnished due to its exclusion of women, and

18 *Whereas*, women have exhibited outstanding Nordic combined
19 performances in non-Olympic competition, and among the premier women’s
20 Nordic combined competitors is Vermonter Tara Geraghty-Moats, who has
21 earned national and international recognition, and

1 *Whereas*, unfortunately for this sport, the exclusion of women from
2 Olympic Nordic combined competition persuaded Tara Geraghty-Moats to
3 pursue her Winter Olympic dreams as a biathlon athlete, and

4 *Whereas*, Vermont is proudly the home of many outstanding women Winter
5 Olympians, who are medal winners in sports other than Nordic combined, and
6 *Whereas*, ironically, although the IOC recently “welcomed the Political
7 Declaration adopted unanimously by the 69th session of the [United Nations]
8 Commission on the Status of Women … reaffirming the importance of sport as
9 a vehicle for gender equality,” it continued this exclusionary policy for the
10 2026 Winter Olympics, and

11 *Whereas*, beyond 2026, Nordic combined Winter Olympic competition may
12 be imperiled, as the IOC may decide to eliminate the sport entirely as a way to
13 end this embarrassing gender exclusion controversy, and

14 *Whereas*, the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS), Nordic
15 Combined USA, and male and female Nordic combined skiers from different
16 nations are strongly advocating for the IOC to continue this fabled sport in
17 Winter Olympic competition but with gender equality, *now therefore be it*

18 ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

19 That the General Assembly supports, in solidarity with national and
20 international ski organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the

1 introduction of long-overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic
2 competition, *and be it further*

3 **Resolved:** That the General Assembly urges the IOC only to introduce new
4 Olympic sports that practice gender equality, *and be it further*
5 **Resolved:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this
6 resolution to FIS, Nordic Combined USA, U.S. Ski & Snowboard, and the
7 IOC.

8 and that after adoption the title of the resolution be amended to read:

9 “Joint resolution supporting, in solidarity with national and international ski
10 organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-
11 overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition and urging
12 that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) only introduce new Olympic
13 sports that practice gender equality.”

14

15

16

17

18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Senator _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE