

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1161**

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Sponsors: Representatives Goodwin, McMahan, L. Johnson, Barnhart (Primary Sponsors); Creech, Ray, K. Williams, Moore, and Luebke.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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April 10, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING NASCAR TO RETAIN THE CURRENT  
2 FIVE WINSTON CUP RACES IN THIS STATE, TWO AT NORTH CAROLINA  
3 SPEEDWAY AND THREE AT LOWE'S MOTOR SPEEDWAY, AND  
4 COMMEMORATING NASCAR AND ITS PIONEERS AS NORTH CAROLINA  
5 IS THE STOCK CAR RACING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

6       Whereas, "The Rock", the local name of The North Carolina Speedway,  
7 began as a dream of several local businessmen in the early 1960s; and

8       Whereas, North Carolina Speedway opened October 31, 1965, and was  
9 rebuilt in 1969; and

10       Whereas, today, the 1.017-mile superspeedway has become one of the most  
11 popular stops on the NASCAR Winston Cup Series and NASCAR Busch Series Grand  
12 National Division schedules; and

13       Whereas, The Rock currently hosts two NASCAR Winston Cup Series races:  
14 the Subway 400 in February and the Pop Secret Microwave Popcorn 400 in November;  
15 and

16       Whereas, located in the heart of stock car country, North Carolina Speedway  
17 is most noted for its fan-friendly atmosphere and Southern hospitality; and

18       Whereas, Richmond County, site of The Rock, is the fifth most economically  
19 depressed county in the State; and

20       Whereas, loss of a single NASCAR Winston Cup race at the North Carolina  
21 Speedway would reduce the speedway's economic impact on the region a minimum of  
22 \$25 million per year; and

23       Whereas, the net decrease in tax revenue collections for the State and local  
24 governments would be significant; and

25       Whereas, Lowe's Motor Speedway opened in June of 1960 as Charlotte  
26 Motor Speedway; and

27       Whereas, that year saw the first running of the World 600 (now the  
28 Coca-Cola 600) and the National 500 (now the UAW-GM Quality 500); and

1           Whereas, those two races have been run at Lowe's Motor Speedway every  
2 year since; and

3           Whereas, the Winston All Star race has been run at Lowe's Motor Speedway  
4 every year since 1987; and

5           Whereas, loss of a single NASCAR Winston Cup race at Lowe's Motor  
6 Speedway would reduce the speedway's economic impact on the State of North  
7 Carolina a minimum of \$80 million per year; and

8           Whereas, this loss would also result in a significant decrease in jobs and tax  
9 revenue collections for the State and local governments, in addition to the speedway  
10 itself; and

11           Whereas, job losses would occur in the local hotel, restaurant, retail and  
12 racing-related businesses in the vicinity of Lowe's Motor Speedway, estimated at 600  
13 positions; and

14           Whereas, the net decrease in tax revenue collections for the State and local  
15 governments would be in excess of \$3.2 million per year; and

16           Whereas, motorsports is becoming big business and its need for engineering  
17 professionals is increasing, and to that end the State of North Carolina has funded the  
18 William States Lee College of Engineering at UNC Charlotte to offer a concentration in  
19 Motorsports Engineering; and

20           Whereas, more NASCAR teams are located in North Carolina than in any  
21 other state, and North Carolina is the auto-racing capital of the United States; and

22           Whereas, after World War II, stock car racing evolved as a sport in the  
23 foothills and Piedmont of North Carolina, quickly becoming one of the deepest  
24 traditions in North Carolina popular culture; and

25           Whereas, several world-class tracks stretch across the State and provide fans  
26 a chance to watch the legends of the sport every year; and

27           Whereas, North Carolina was the birthplace or home of such NASCAR  
28 legends as the late Dale Earnhardt and the late Lee Petty, and the General Assembly  
29 desires to commemorate their memory; and

30           Whereas, NASCAR has expanded to a national sport; and

31           Whereas, discussions have been had about moving one or more NASCAR  
32 races out of North Carolina; and

33           Whereas, to be true to its roots, NASCAR should maintain a maximum racing  
34 presence in North Carolina; Now, therefore,

35 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

36           **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina General Assembly encourages NASCAR  
37 to retain the two Winston Cup Series races at North Carolina Speedway and the three  
38 Winston Cup Series races at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

39           **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina General Assembly commemorates the  
40 pioneers of NASCAR, such as the late Lee Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt.

41           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
42 resolution to the governing body and officers of NASCAR.

43           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.