



HOUSE RESOLUTION 21-1005

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Garnett, Amabile, Bacon, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Ricks, Roberts, Sirota, Snyder, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Weissman, Young.

CONCERNING THE APPROVAL BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENT OF ANNIE KAO TO FILL THE HOUSE APPOINTEE VACANCY ON THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Section 5 (2)(a)(II) of article XXIX of the state constitution requires the Colorado House of Representatives to appoint one member to the Independent Ethics Commission created in section 5 (1) of said article, hereafter referred to as the "Commission", and section 24-18.5-101 (2)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives to appoint that member with the approval of two-thirds of the members elected to the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the authority granted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives under section 24-18.5-101 (2)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, Speaker KC Becker appointed, and by approval of House Resolution 19-1010, the members of the House of Representatives approved the appointment of Debra Johnson to serve a four-year term as the House appointee to the Commission, commencing July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, On May 23, 2021, Commissioner Johnson gave written notice to the Commission of her intent to resign from the Commission, effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 (2)(e) of article XXIX of the state constitution

provides that, when a member of the Commission is appointed to fill an unexpired term, that member's term ends at the same time as the term of the person being replaced; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to his authority, Speaker Alec Garnett has appointed Annie Kao to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Debra Johnson from the Commission, effective July 1, 2021, to serve as the House appointee to the Commission for the remainder of the unexpired term through June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kao, who is affiliated with the Democratic Party, is the founder of Ascent Inclusion Consulting, an entity focused on providing guidance for the advancement of inclusion, equity, and diversity in the outdoor industry and the outdoor recreation economy, bringing together people of all abilities, races, ethnicities, genders, and diverse backgrounds and identities in the pursuit of an outdoors for all; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of Ascent Inclusion Consulting has provided Ms. Kao the opportunity to combine her legal education and experience with her personal love of the outdoors and her passion for and expertise in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoor industry and recreation economy; and

WHEREAS, From 2010 to 2020, Ms. Kao served as in-house counsel for Vail Resorts, including as Assistant General Counsel -- Mountain Resorts and as lead operations attorney for several world-class resorts, including Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, and Whistler Blackcomb; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her work with Vail Resorts, Ms. Kao was a commercial trial attorney in Denver at the law firms of Hogan Lovells from 2008 to 2010 and at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck from 2003 to 2008, following a judicial clerkship with Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey of the Colorado Supreme Court from 2002 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kao advanced the interests of Asian Pacific American legal professionals in her capacity as a Regional Governor of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association from 2007 to 2009 and subsequently as the Secretary of the Association from 2009 to 2010,

and as the President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado from 2007 to 2008; and

WHEREAS, Because of her personal life experiences, her extensive legal training and experience, her understanding and respect for others, and her unique ability to connect and communicate with a wide variety of audiences, Ms. Kao has inspired positive change in a variety of industries, fostering open dialogue geared toward building an essential foundation of understanding, trust, and respect; and

WHEREAS, Through her volunteer efforts, similarly focused on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoor industry and recreation economy, Ms. Kao serves as a Board Member of and Secretary for the Share Winter Foundation, a grant-making and resource hub whose mission is to improve the lives, health, and fitness of youth through winter sports by creating a more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming winter sports community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kao has been invited to be a guest lecturer at the University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business and Colorado Mesa University's outdoor recreation industries studies program, and to serve as a partner to the Outdoor Industry Master of Business Administration program at Western Colorado University because of her ability to educate, motivate, and inspire others; and

WHEREAS, On the basis of her dedicated service to the betterment of her community, her considerable legal knowledge and experience, and her undisputed reputation as an individual of integrity and compassion, Annie Kao has demonstrated the temperament and personal qualities that will enable her to serve as a respected member of the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission in an exemplary manner and in a way that will reflect well upon the House of Representatives, the Colorado General Assembly, and the State of Colorado; now, therefore,

Be It Further Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That the House of Representatives hereby approves Speaker Garnett's appointment of Annie Kao to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Debra Johnson as the House appointee to the Independent

Ethics Commission, effective July 1, 2021, for the remainder of the unexpired term ending June 30, 2023.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this House Resolution be sent to the Chair of the Independent Ethics Commission, the Executive Director of the Independent Ethics Commission, and Ms. Kao.

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alec Garnett
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES